

Nolato Magasin

No 30 | November 2019



Focus on Sustainability

Working for a sustainable future



Expansion in Poland | Accessible health care in US
10 years of the UN Global Compact | Kids make Beijing visit
New plant in east China | Busy bees in Partner for Life
Pharma packaging meets Internet of Things

Aiming for three green lights

Actively choosing what products we develop and manufacture is where we can have the greatest environmental benefit.



➤ *Find out more on pages 4-7!*

Social responsibility in practice

All employees of US-based Nolato Contour are welcome to visit the subsidised health clinic at the factory.



➤ *Find out more on page 8!*

Expanded horizons for Daxiwan children

After seven years of Nolato management visiting school children in Daxiwan, it was their turn to visit Beijing.



➤ *Find out more on pages 10-11!*

Hive of activity at Hörby

The production plant in Hörby, Sweden, takes on swarms of hard-working new co-workers.



➤ *Find out more on the back page!*

Protecting our future by saying no



Christer Wahlquist
President & CEO

Nolato has long taken responsibility by working actively for a sustainable business future. We are constantly endeavouring to develop sustainable solutions that respect the environment by using fewer resources, more efficient production processes and environmentally sustainable logistics. We try where possible to encourage customers to use recycled plastic and bioplastics when developing new products, including polymers extracted from sugarcane.

Being involved early on in our customers' development processes allows us to support them on sustainability issues and influence the environmental impact over the life cycle of a product.

And careful selection of methods and raw materials also allows us to reduce our own carbon footprint.

But the most important thing we can do is to actually decline business that doesn't meet our environmental requirements. This is the single best way we can contribute to a sustainable future.

This issue of Nolato Magasin looks at our sustainability work from a range of perspectives.



Happy reading,



The new cleanroom before installation of the injection moulding machines.

Expanding in Poland with a new cleanroom and injection moulding

Nolato's Polish unit Nolato Stargard, which is part of the Medical Solutions business area, has expanded with a new cleanroom and injection moulding to bolster Nolato's customer offering in Europe.

Until now, Nolato Stargard, based in northern Poland, has focused on offering advanced cleanroom-based assembly, quality assurance and packaging of medical devices in low to medium volumes.

The business is now expanding through a brand new cleanroom facility for the injection moulding of medical devices.

Strong offering

"Operations at Nolato Stargard have gone really well," says Johan Iveberg, President of the Medical Solutions business area. "So we're now further bolstering our position in northern Europe by also offering competitive injection moulding in Poland.

"Combining the effective manual operations in Poland with injection moulding and advanced support from Nolato's other production units and our Technical Design Centres will allow us to create a powerful offering in this segment."

Both Nolato Stargard's recently recruited technicians and operators with extensive experience of injection moulding have received additional training at Nolato MediTech in Lomma, southern Sweden.

Manually packaged before delivery

"The first product that is being injection-moulded at Nolato Stargard was previously produced by us in Sweden," explains Per Persson, Operations Coordinator at Nolato MediTech in Lomma, who has overseen the expansion efforts in Poland.

"But since it needs to be manually packaged before delivery to the customer, it's ideal to produce it at Nolato Stargard instead."

More products will be added to Nolato Stargard, which will also tender for customer projects directly. ■



Our magazine is produced for our customers, shareholders and employees, and anyone else with an interest in the Group.
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Nolato acquires shielding technology company

Nolato has acquired Ja-Bar Silicone Corporation. Under the name Nolato Jabar, the company will be part of the Integrated Solutions business area and will strengthen Nolato's shielding operations within electromagnetic compatibility, or EMC.

“We’ve made the acquisition with expectations of continued robust market growth in the EMC area,” notes Nolato President and CEO Christer Wahlquist. “We’re seeing increasing demand for applications and products that can be tailored to 4G and 5G networks as the number of new connected products grows.”

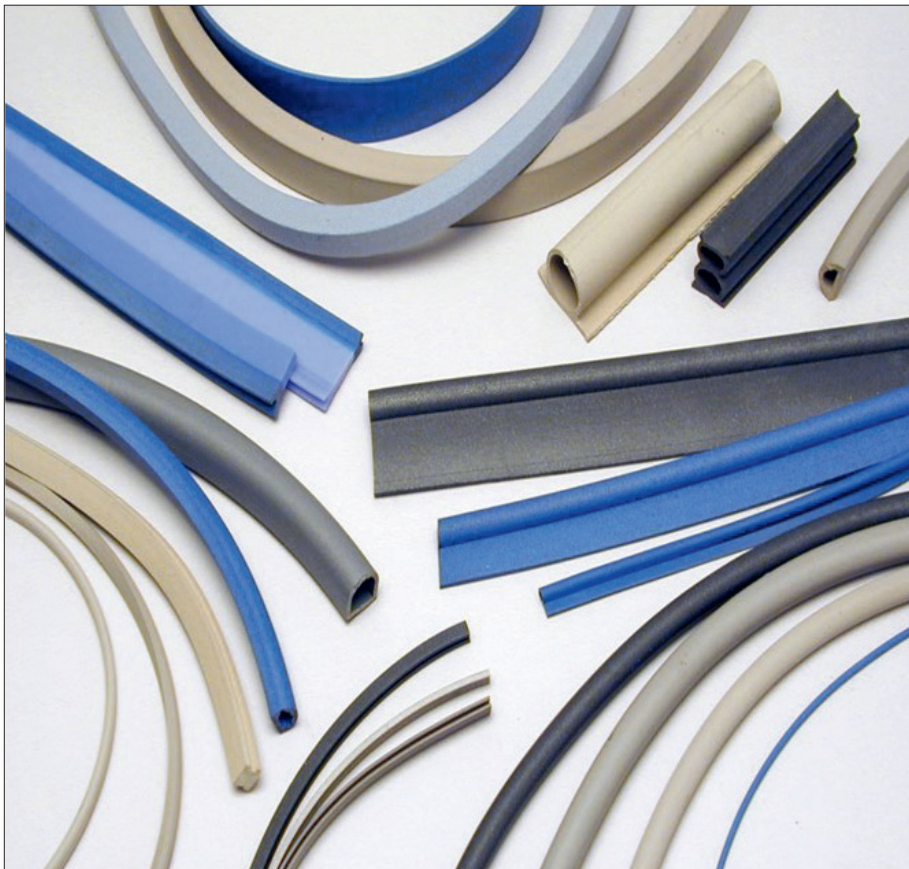
“New business opportunities are also appearing, for example as vehicles’ electronic systems increasingly require both shielding against electromagnetic radiation and dissipation of heat from various electronic components.”

Ja-Bar has a wide range of shielding

products in electrically conductive materials, including gaskets, seals, ventilation panels, optical windows and mesh-reinforced materials.

Customers include a number of world-leading operators in sectors such as aerospace, automotive and medical technology.

“The acquisition of Ja-Bar gives us access to more electromagnetic compatibility technologies, and also increases our geographical presence,” says Anders Ericsson, head of Nolato’s EMC operations. “It also gives us a broader customer base in lots of interesting new areas.” ■



Nolato Jabar provides Nolato with a wider range of EMC solutions.

Hello there,

*Jörgen Karlsson,
President of the
Integrated Solutions
business area*

You’ve previously had a strong focus on mobile phones, but have you expanded your market in recent years?

“We certainly have. We still have our customers in the mobile phone segment, but we’re now endeavouring to generate growth with a number of other renowned consumer electronics companies. This involves projects such as loud speaker systems, digital assistants, fitness trackers and other similar products. And vaporiser heating products, VHP, which is currently our largest product area.”

What exactly are vaporiser heating products? Tell us more.

“These are new products for the heating of tobacco that we produce for one of the global market leaders in this area. It’s a large company with good profitability and a strong position.

“We can’t mention the customer’s name, but they have a strong focus on new product areas and the change in customers’ use of their traditional products. We believe this market has long-term potential for us, as our expertise and experience provide us with significant opportunities.”

So your work in the mobile phone segment remains an advantage?

“Most definitely. We’ve learnt a huge amount from our longstanding cooperation with mobile phone manufacturers. No sector can quite match the mobile phone industry for things like project management requirements, new technologies and product cosmetics. Consumer electronics customers are impressed when we bring that know-how.

“It enables us to present something that was new in the mobile phone sector 10 years ago as something of real interest to these customers.” ■



Working for a sustainable future

Constantly ensuring that everything Nolato does is sustainable and in harmony with the environment, social responsibility and business benefit is vitally important to us. It's now time to take a new step forward in the area of the environment as we become even more active in working with customers and may also decline products that we do not believe meet the requirements for a sustainable future.

Nolato takes a comprehensive approach to sustainability within the Group. The Group adheres to the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals and is a signatory to the UN Global Compact. We ensure all employees receive training on our Nolato Spirit document, which sets out our regulations on environmental and social responsibility, as well as ethics, including our Basic Principles, our Code of Conduct and Whistleblower Policy. All businesses must have environmental certification, long-term sustainability goals linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development have been established and

are continually followed up, and we provide transparent reporting based on GRI, Global Compact and Carbon Disclosure Project rules.

We can make a difference

“We have a long tradition of a positive approach to the environment, but we feel this isn't enough,” says Nolato President and CEO Christer Wahlquist. “We're doing a lot of the right things, but for a long time our focus has been on setting internal targets and reducing our own key performance indicators on things like energy consumption, recycling and carbon

emissions. That's great. But the area where we can have the biggest environmental benefit in the future is how we develop new products and what products we choose to develop and manufacture.

“It's in our day-to-day operations and our work with customers that we can make a real difference.

“So when a customer approaches us and wants help with developing a new product, we now always start by assessing the intended product from a sustainability point of view. Is this the right product for a sustainable future? What is its life cycle? Does it have a short-term or a long-term



Our Group targets are linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

The UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals provide a clear, useful framework for addressing global challenges, and they have had a huge impact on society. At the same time they are a catalyst for innovation and business opportunities within the field of sustainability. Private and public organisations have an important role to play, and businesses are expected to contribute by adopting responsible business practices, providing transparent reporting of their own targets and outcomes, and developing products and services that foster sustainable development.

Goals have helped identify key areas

The UN Sustainable Development Goals help us identify key areas within sustainable development, and we have highlighted several goals that are clearly relevant to the Group's operations. With these goals as a starting point, we can see that we are able to both reduce our environmental impact and create business opportunities.

area of application? What happens when the product comes to the end of its useful life? How is it intended to be manufactured?"

Always finding a greener solution

"If the product doesn't pass this initial review, we decline the project. And if the product gets the go-ahead, we always aim to achieve an even greener solution," explains Christer Wahlquist.

"That might involve making the product using different, more environmentally sustainable materials or design solutions and assembly methods that make it easier to recycle.

"If the customer doesn't wish to implement the improvements we propose from a sustainability point of view, then we shouldn't continue our involvement with the project.

"Although not everyone currently accepts the solutions we propose – for instance, it may be more expensive to ensure a product can be easily recycled – I am certain this is the right way to go and that in the long run it will generate additional business," says Christer Wahlquist. ■



We have therefore linked the Group's targets to seven of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This allows us to contribute to an even more sustainable world, while generating profitable growth for Nolato.

Inspiration for further measures

Minimising Nolato's use of resources is an important principle in achieving our targets. We accomplish this by working with innovation, efficiency improvements, investment in new technology, greater use of renewable energy and initiatives focusing on bio-based and recycled plastics. The UN Sustainable Development Goals also provide inspiration for measures within social responsibility, social engagement and business ethics. ■

Plastic is an amazing material

But it needs to be used correctly and not end up in the sea!

Plastics are often climate smart and save energy. The fact that they replace metals and other heavy materials in the automotive and aviation industries means a reduction in weight and fuel consumption, and thus carbon dioxide emissions. In the construction industry, plastics are used as an insulation material, which is positive from an energy perspective. Plastics as packaging material in retail reduce weight and fuel consumption. And they also cut food waste by keeping food edible for longer.

Plastic should not end up in the sea!

But there is another side to the coin and plastics are associated with several environmental problems. Plastics can contain hazardous additives that can cause harm to people and the environment. The majority of plastics are made from fossil crude oil – a non-renewable raw material that has a negative climate impact.

One particular environmental problem that has come to the fore in recent years is the contamination of our oceans. It is mainly caused by plastic used in consumer products with a short lifespan in countries with underdeveloped collection and recycling systems. Large quantities of plastic rubbish end up in the ocean, where it can take hundreds of years to break down.

So what's Nolato's view of plastics in relation to the environment?

We ask Torbjörn Brorson, Nolato's Head of Sustainable Development:

"We share the view that plastics have both positive and negative qualities from an environmental perspective. Nolato uses somewhere in the region of 40,000 tonnes of plastic a year and our product range contains products that have both a long and short lifespan.

"Long-lasting products are used as components in items such as vehicles, mobile phones, household appliances and medical devices. Most of the time there are effi-

cient systems in place for collecting and recycling the plastic in products such as these.

"Short-lived products include pharmaceutical packaging and single-use products within health care. Many of these products are recycled, but we cannot rule out the possibility of some of them ending up littering the environment."

What is Nolato doing to reduce the environmental impact of plastics?

"We have taken action to reduce or completely phase out the use of hazardous additives in the plastic.

"We are also endeavouring to reduce the percentage of fossil raw material in the product. For example, we have developed pharmaceutical packaging in which reduced weight generates environmental benefit while bringing costs down. Increasing the content of the filler material chalk is also a solution that is being applied in a number of products."

How interested are customers in environmentally sustainable plastics?

"We use around 600 tonnes of recycled plastic a year and are taking active measures to increase this. We are also seeing increased customer interest in our environmentally sustainable plastics. For instance, there's an expressed interest in the automotive industry. One of our customers in that sector has a target for all its vehicles to contain 25 percent recycled plastic by the year 2025.

"There is also growing interest among customers in the hygiene and furniture sectors. We have a number of ongoing or initiated projects with such customers.

"Interest within pharmaceuticals and medical devices is less pronounced. This is most likely to do with the fact that it is costly and complicated to register changes in technical specifications with the pharmaceutical regulatory authorities." ■



Life cycle



Short

End of life



Risky

Raw material



Fossil



Long



Recycling



Bio-based

Each new product is assessed based on three key sustainability factors before we determine whether we should be involved.

Assessment provides guidance for new projects

Aiming for three green lights

“There are a lot of products on the market that should never have been made from plastic,” says Nolato President and CEO Christer Wahlquist.

“So to get a clearer view we now assess three key aspects of each new product that our customers want us to help manufacture. The results of the assessment provide guidance on whether we should be involved or if we should decline a project.”

1 1

Life cycle

The first thing we assess is the product’s lifecycle. Does it have a short-term or long-term area of application? For instance, take a disposable cup that you drink from and then throw away; should Nolato be involved in producing something like that? Or a drinking straw?

“Compare this with a car, which you use over many years; the period of use has a big impact in terms of sustainability,” notes Christer Wahlquist.

2 2

End of life

The second question we ask is what happens when the product comes to the end of its useful life.

“Plastic in the natural environment is a major problem; but what if the product is designed so that it can be easily recycled?”

3 3

Raw material

The third question is whether the product is based on fossil raw materials or bio-based materials. In principle, all plastics can be produced from bio-based raw

material, i.e. plant matter instead of being made from crude oil pumped out of the ground.

Advantage of bio-based materials

“Bio-based plastics have a clear advantage,” says Christer Wahlquist. “They don’t contribute to increased carbon dioxide emissions.”

“So we’re looking for three green lights when we assess new products in this way. But in some cases we may also accept just two green lights if, for example, the product has a short life cycle but is produced from bio-based material and has an effective system for recycling.”

“But if there are too many red lights, we say sorry but this product should not be manufactured.” ■



FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY

Accessible health Social respon practice at No

*Nolato Contour, based in the state of
United States, has set up and subsidis
The clinic welcomes all employees for
and preventive health care.*

A key issue when running a sustainable business is taking care of employees. So US-based Nolato Contour, in cooperation with a third-party healthcare provider, has opened its own 'be-well' clinic at the production site. This allows employees to meet a primary medical care team and receive help with both preventive care, and primary care if they are ill.

Care even without health insurance

“As well as offering our employees good health care at a much lower cost, there are no long waiting times and the clinic staff are friendly and professional,” explains Russell Steele, Managing Director of Nolato Contour. Employees who don't have health insurance can also receive good medical care.

“Other clinics that don't offer health care subsidised by the company might charge \$190 dollars for a 10-minute primary care consultation, which a lot of people struggle to pay.”

Free preventive care

The clinic is open every working day and there are agreements in place with some other companies in the vicinity for their employees to also use it. One day a week the clinic opens extra early and closes 12 hours later, ensuring everyone is able to visit. Preventive health care is free, while a medical appointment costs \$25 dollars, but that includes all lab tests and prescribed medication.

“Our aim is to build good relation-

care for all sibility in Nolato Contour

of Wisconsin in the north-central
opened a health clinic at the factory.
for both primary medical care

ships with our patients and recreate the good health care of the past,” says Jamie Edwards, nurse practitioner and head of the clinic.

“Establishing a relationship with patients makes it easier to get to the root of a patient’s problems. That means we can take a preventive approach and keep people well instead of having to treat them.” ■



Jamie Edwards is in charge of the clinic.

BACKGROUND:

Health care in the US is mainly based on patients having their own health insurance, which many people on low incomes struggle to afford. What’s more, health insurance doesn’t usually cover the entire cost of health care, and there is normally a maximum coverage allowance and an excess for patients to pay. ■



The UN Global Compact sets clear requirements for active measures on human rights, labour law, the environment and anti-corruption.

10 years of the United Nations’ 10 basic principles

This year marks 10 years since Nolato became a signatory to the UN Global Compact, which means we support the 10 basic principles on human rights, labour law, the environment and anti-corruption.

Nolato applied in December 2009 to become a member of the UN’s Global Compact network. The application was approved by the then Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, which means Nolato can now celebrate 10 years as a member of this network.

Over the ensuing years, the network has grown to become the world’s largest sustainable development network. Around 13,000 organisations have signed up to the Global Compact, 300 of which are in Sweden.

Clear requirements for active measures

“The clear requirements for active measures by members sets the Global Compact apart from other sustainability initiatives,” explains Nolato Head of Sustainability Torbjörn Brorson. “It’s not enough to just sign a document and carry on as normal. As a member we’ve undertaken to sup-

port 10 basic principles on human rights, labour law, the environment and anti-corruption.”

Mandatory reporting to the UN

Nolato has also committed to show how we work with the Sustainable Development Goals, which means every year we report to the UN on what has been done. If a company fails to submit its reporting, it is quickly excluded from the network.

“It’s great to be participating in a global initiative that focuses on sustainability issues that are crucial for the whole of society,” says Nolato President and CEO Christer Wahlquist. “The Global Compact is an important element of Nolato’s sustainable development strategy. The network also provides us with access to guidance and relevant reports, along with the opportunity to meet other companies and exchange experience.” ■



Expanding horizons of children in Daxiwan

Beijing trip takes in busy factories, Bird's Nest and bustling streets

Over the past seven years Nolato in Beijing has been supporting a school in Daxiwan, a town in a poor area four hours' drive north of Beijing. During this time, Nolato employees have visited the school to donate equipment, as well as warm clothing for the students. But this year we changed things by instead inviting the students to visit Beijing and Nolato.

Many of Nolato's employees in Beijing are young and come from the countryside, which is often poor with schools that lack resources.

"Nolato is one of the largest Swedish employers in Beijing. We felt that having been here since 2001 it was time to give something back," explains Thomas Hofflander, Managing Director of Nolato Beijing. "So seven years ago we started getting involved in helping Daxiwan Town Central Primary School."

Visited school on previous occasions

The school is situated in a disadvantaged area, four hours' drive north of Beijing. It lacks much of the equipment that schools need these days. The school is located 1,800 metres above sea level, so the area is windy and gets very cold. The 50 students, aged between 6 and 12, board at the school during the week. The school struggles to recruit and retain its teachers, particularly as the area doesn't have much to offer young people.

Over the past seven years Nolato's management group in Beijing has visited Daxiwan, bringing computers, printers and other equipment so that teachers can plan

and provide better teaching, and also keep in touch with their families and friends on social media.

For the children Nolato has purchased warm waterproof jackets, hats, gloves and more. It has also encouraged the involvement of more Swedes in Beijing, in part through Swea (the Swedish Women's Educational Association), and collected clothes, toys, hygiene products, pens and paper for the students.

But this year saw a change of tack, with the students and their teachers instead being invited to visit Beijing and Nolato.

Helping to expand horizons

"Over the past seven years we've brought them lots of equipment, but the better we've got to know them, the more we've realised how little they know about the world outside their own home and school," says Maple Gao, HR Director at Nolato Beijing. "So this year we decided instead to invite them to come and see us to show them their capital city Beijing and our factories here."

So in late August just over 20 pupils and teachers visited Beijing. During their few days' stay they got what for many was

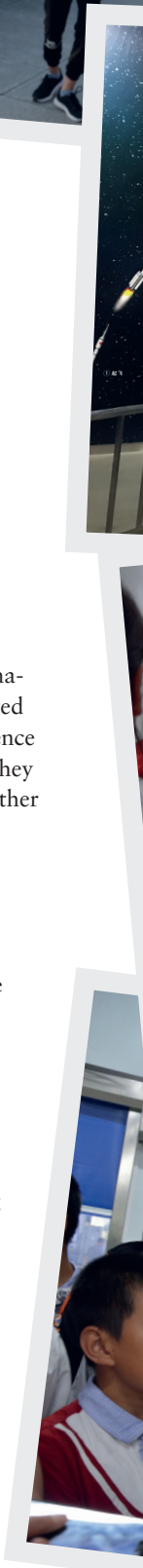
their first glimpse of the city's traffic chaos, took a bus tour of Beijing, and visited universities, various historical and science museums, where they could see what they had read about in books, and visited other interesting parts of their capital.

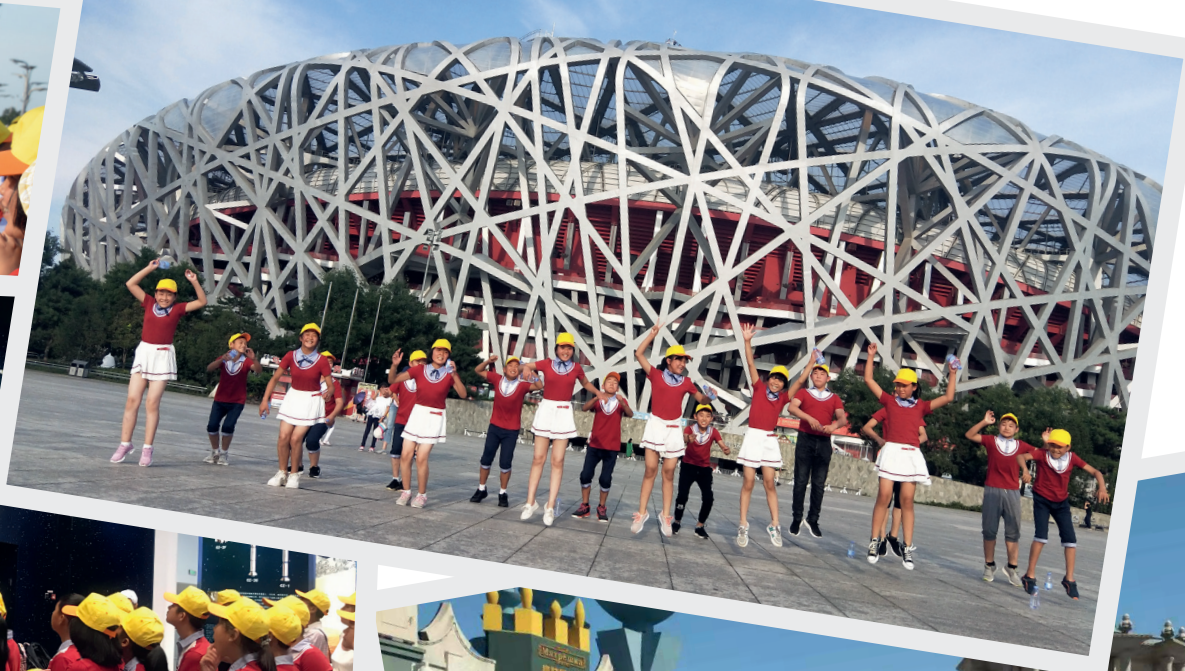
Automation and Bird's Nest

The children were also shown round Nolato's factories in Beijing. At first they were wide-eyed and quiet, but the automated packaging line had them gasping in amazement.

The children were initially a little shy, but when they visited the huge Bird's Nest stadium built for the 2008 Olympics, the teachers encouraged them to talk to a group of girls visiting from abroad. After a while they took photos together and started talking. The children from Daxiwan grew in confidence, and by the time they returned home their horizons had expanded.

"It was amazing to see them come out of their shells, and it's going to be interesting to meet them again next year in their home town," says Maple Gao. ■





Suzhou, where Nolato has set up its latest Chinese production plant, is often referred to as the Venice of China.





The new production facility is purpose-built for customer demands for advanced cleanroom-based production.

New Nolato plant in eastern China

Nolato has established a new production plant in Suzhou in eastern China, around 100 kilometres north-west of Shanghai. The city is known for its many canals and often referred to as the Venice of China. Suzhou is home to a host of highly active companies in medtech, automotive and consumer electronics.

The new unit, named Nolato Suzhou, is part of Integrated Solutions and will cooperate closely with Nolato Beijing. The Suzhou unit will initially support the Beijing plants with assembly and consumer packaging of vaporiser heating products.

The Suzhou plant is located in a recently constructed industrial park and is purpose-built to meet demands from Integrated Solutions' customers for advanced cleanroom-based production.

Close to customers

The Shanghai region, together with the Guangdong province in the south of the country, is considered China's most important area for business and manufacturing. It has excellent logistics, with several railway stations, airports and marine ports. And it's easy to find skilled manufacturing and service subcontractors.

But most significant of all for Nolato's new unit in Suzhou is its proximity to existing and potential customers. In particular, the Shanghai area is a hub for China's rapidly growing medical technology industry and many of Nolato's existing customers in this field are based here. This

provides an ideal platform to deepen relationships with these customers in China.

This part of China is also seeing rapid growth in the automotive industry, with both domestic and international vehicle manufacturers present in the area. Nolato also regards this as a good opportunity for its shielding and heat dissipation businesses to offer their solutions here.

On site in China's key areas

The opening of the unit in Suzhou means Nolato now has its own units in the three most important industrial regions of China: Nolato Beijing in the north, Nolato Suzhou in the east and Nolato Shenzhen in southern China. ■





Pharma packaging meets the Internet of Things

New intelligent functions that help patients, healthcare professionals and pharmaceutical companies are becoming a reality as pharma packaging meets the Internet of Things.

Treating patients at home, where this is possible, is a key factor in driving down runaway healthcare costs. But this means that healthcare providers can no longer check that patients are taking their medication at the right time and in the right dosage, which can have serious consequences.

Digital cap

In cooperation with Israel-based smart technology company water.io, Nolato has therefore developed pharma packaging with integrated digital technology that solves a range of problems. Smart digital caps on pharma packaging can check that patients take their medication and provide an automatic reminder. If the medication

is not taken on time and in the correct dosage, the electronic system can alert healthcare professionals.

Useful functions

The technology can also be used to prompt people to take daily vitamins and supplements using lights signals in the lid. Automated replenishment of product subscriptions before medications are used up could also be possible.

Digitalising pharma packaging could also provide functions to ensure the right person takes the medication, provide age checks to protect children or ensure that the medication is taken according to the instructions on the packaging.

Another area could involve collecting patient data in clinical trials, with digital packaging providing secure, simplified methods for capturing, registering and monitoring information, which could reduce lead times for drug development. ■



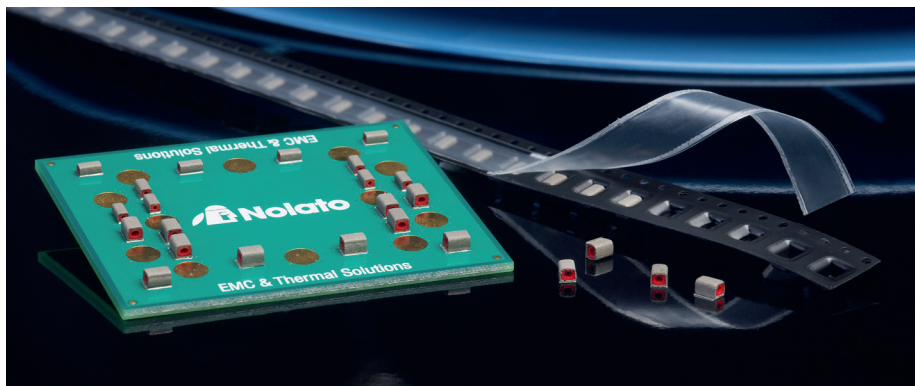
New solution for effective PCB grounding

Compashield PAD is a newly developed, flexible and compressible pad placed between a printed circuit board (PCB) and its surrounding material to provide a reliable grounding contact. This creates good electrical conductivity by absorbing tolerances in both surfaces, closing the gap between a PCB and another component.

Electrically conductive shell

The pad is hollow with a soft silicone core and a shell of electrically conductive silicone rubber filled with Ni/C particles. The product is laminated with a solderable metal strip.

“Our customers mainly use it as a grounding contact on PCBs,” explains Jonas Carlsson, Global Business Mana-



Compashield PAD is delivered on tape-and-reel for automated placement.

ger Automotive at Nolato Silikonteknik. The recommended operating temperature is between minus 55°C and plus 125°C, which also makes it suitable for use in the automotive industry.

Compashield PAD is supplied in three different versions with different cross-sections and lengths, but it can also be produced to other dimensions to fit customer specifications.

“Compashield PAD has been really well received by our customers, who also think

the price is competitive,” says Jonas Carlsson.

Effective bonding

“A success factor is the way the soldering plate is attached to the silicone. We have full bonding throughout instead of bending up the soldering plate into the hollow profile. Together with the product’s other properties, this provides highly effective bonding and assurance that Compashield PAD never shifts out of position on the circuit board.” ■

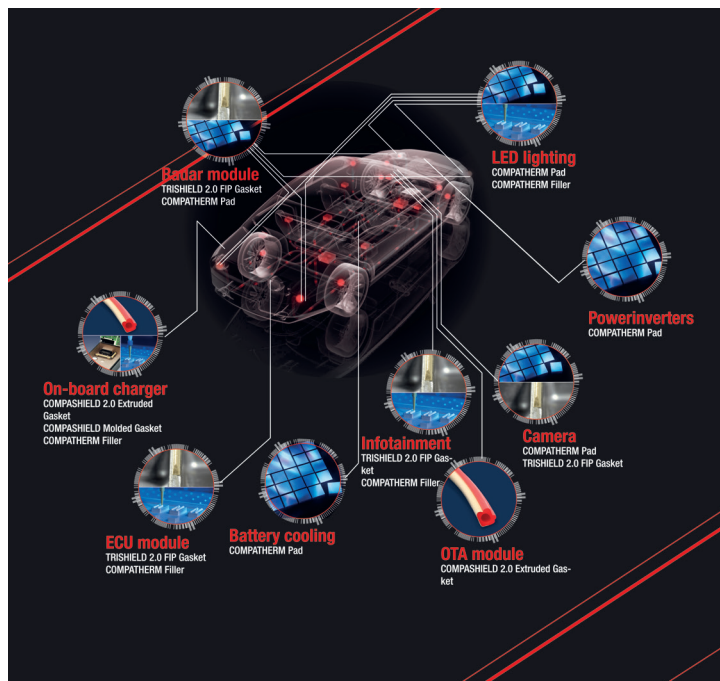
Experience from telecom applied to automotive

The ever-increasing digitalisation and electrification of various types of vehicle means a raft of sensitive electronic components are being fitted close together in a challenging environment, often tightly packed in. This creates a real need to both shield against the electromagnetic radiation generated by the electronics and to protect against moisture and dirt. And the heat produced by the components also needs to be dissipated.

“The automotive industry has become an increasingly important area for us,” says Martin Dahlberg, Director of Global Sales at Nolato Silikonteknik. “We have a lot of know-how and experience, particularly from the telecom sector, and we’re now transferring this knowledge to automotive in the form of effective solutions tailored to their specific needs.

“There are a lot of similarities between electronics in a mobile network base station and vehicle electronics. In both cases it’s not sufficient to create electromagnetic compatibility (EMC); our solutions also protect electronics from dirt and moisture.

“We’ve been offering thermic solutions for some years for efficient dissipation of heat from sensitive electronic components. This is another area where we can call on our experience of silicone-based conductive and non-conductive materials and offer our automotive customers an array of effective solutions for their demanding environment,” notes Martin Dahlberg. ■



Nolato Silikonteknik has significant expertise in shielding solutions from the telecom industry, which is now being used for vehicles.



Bees get busy in Hörby's Partner for Life initiative

As well as providing us with honey, the pollination that bees carry out as they fly around and gather nectar is vital for biological diversity. And around one-third of the food we eat comes from plants that depend on being pollinated by bees.

We all know bees make delicious and nutritious honey. But the greatest benefit they provide is pollinating plants that produce fruit, berries and vegetables for both us and a whole host of birds and other animals. Around one-third of the food we eat is pollinated by bees, so they make a crucial contribution to our very survival.

The honey they produce is not only tasty but also beneficial. As well as high-grade fructose and dextrose, it also contains minerals and enzymes that aid our digestion. It can also kill bacteria and contains a range of vitamins and amino acids. The pharmaceutical industry also uses honey.

But bees are under threat from various quarters. Toxic pesticides and environmental changes, such as the disappearance of the small-scale farming landscape, are having a significant impact on bees, resulting in a decline in many kinds of flowers. So more bees are needed to carry out this work, which is vitally important for both us and a flourishing natural environment.

Nolato MediTech based in Hörby, Sweden, with customers in both the pharma-

ceutical and medtech sectors, is taking this seriously through its new 'Partner for Life' initiative, which has seen a number of beehives established at the factory site.

"We felt this was a good way to tangibly demonstrate our focus on sustainability," explains Pelle Ekerholm, Key Account Manager at Nolato MediTech, who has led

the beehive initiative. "Our new partners help maintain the natural environment around the production facility. And we also gain a lovely by-product in the form of locally produced honey, which we can give to our human partners. The medical link with bees makes this particularly interesting for us here in Hörby."

