

FACEMASKS MADE LOCALLY WITH SABIC® PP MATERIALS BEING USED AT YEAR-END MEETING

Guests at our year-end meeting (YEM) are using facemasks manufactured locally with our SABIC® PP and SABIC® PE polymer solutions that meet standards for medical and facemasks in compliant with N95 regulations in Saudi Arabia.

We had recently achieved an important milestone in our efforts to help localize the production of personal protective equipment (PPE), particularly when we produced the N95 masks in Saudi Arabia for the first time – thanks to the joint efforts of our application development, personal hygiene segment and local content teams in Saudi Arabia.

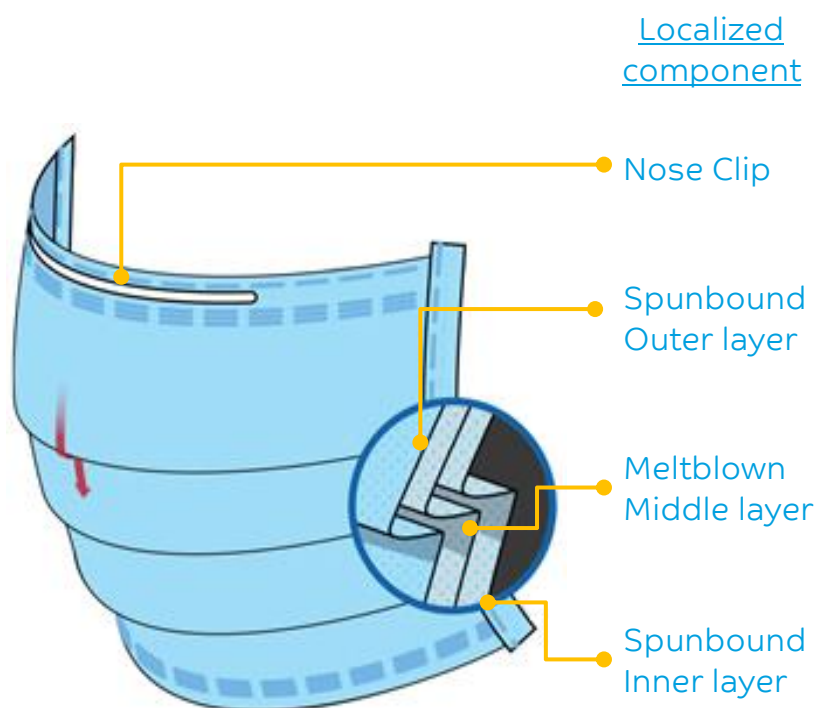
Our strong internal and external collaboration was the key to our success that exemplified our commitment to establish the capability to localize the facemask value chain starting with the raw material. The contribution of the T&I team was crucial to this success. They developed and evaluated SABIC® PP meltblown resin for facemask applications in a considerably short time.

We got approvals from local meltblown nonwoven converters followed by a successful production of the masks by using our polypropylene (PP) materials for meltblown and spunbond nonwovens, meeting localization milestones to support national efforts to combat COVID-19. In addition, SABIC® HDPE resin was used for the nose clip. This was the result of one of the excellent cross-functional teamwork facilitated by teams from PP Middle East and Africa business, Manufacturing, Market Development & Technical Support (MDTS), Technology & Innovation, Supply Chain, and Hygiene & Healthcare segment teams, supported by the Local Content team.

“During the COVID-19 pandemic, it became clear that localizing personal hygiene polymers, specifically SABIC® PP spunbond and meltblown grades mostly used in PPE, were important and critical for our Saudi-based customers,” said Fahad Al-Harhi, Director, Advanced Consumer Solutions in Engineered Thermoplastics (ETP) & Market Solutions.

SABIC PURECARES™ polymer portfolio from Hygiene & Healthcare portfolio offers PP products engineered with phthalate-free, single-material technology to deliver enhanced properties in spunbond and meltblown fibers for nonwoven fabrics. Generally, the outer layer of a facemask needs strength and abrasion resistance and SABIC® PP 511A and 519A spunbond materials are good candidates for this layer. The newly created SABIC® PP meltblown resin, with very high melt-flow rate is used to create nonwoven meltblown fabric as a mid-layer in mask applications.

Produced at our Saudi-based assets, our polymers met the standards of medical mask and N95 facial masks. N95 standard, requiring filtration effectiveness (0.3 micron particle >95%), has been approved by major Saudi brand owners for facemasks, supporting the localization drive in line with the key objectives of Saudi Vision 2030.



SABIC raw
materials used

- SABIC® HDPE F04660
- SABIC® HDPE F00952
- SABIC® PP 511A/519A
- SABIC® PP meltblown
- SABIC® PP 511A/519A

Figure 1: Facemask, illustration of composition layers (only to demonstrate layers combination)

