



# News Release

April 28, 2020

## **Colors & Effects® developed Sicopal® Black K 0098 FK for smart recycling of dark plastics**

- **Sicopal® Black K 0098 FK is a sustainable alternative replacing carbon black**
- **Thanks to its excellent processing stability Sicopal Black K 0098 FK can be used for multiple processing steps and closed loop recycling**

LUDWIGSHAFEN, GERMANY, April 28, 2020 – Recyclability is a decisive factor for plastics design. When colored with carbon black, plastics go undetected by waste sorting machines. Even traces of carbon black can hinder the near infrared (NIR) sorting of polymer scrap due to the pigments absorbing properties. Consequently, the plastic cannot be detected for further recycling and the waste will be incinerated or landfilled. Therefore, replacing carbon black with the newly developed NIR-reflective [Sicopal® Black K 0098 FK](#) contributes to smart recycling of plastics.

“The Colors & Effects® research and development team has proactively taken on the industry need for recyclable black plastics that can pass through infrared sorting at materials recycling facilities”, says Dr. Christof Kujat, Head of Global Technical Industry Management for Plastics. As project lead, he has brought the new pigment to life: “Building on our established Sicopal Black technology, we have developed a new member of the pigment family with the aim to optimize it for the use in packaging. In the end our team has succeeded in creating a new pigment for recycling of black plastics with improved value in use.”

### **Recyclability by design includes food contact compliance**

The new black offers high color strength, opacity and food contact compliance, allowing its use in sensitive applications, like the coloration of food packaging. It is suitable for all commonly used plastics materials, including high heat polymers. Thanks to its good

NIR-reflectivity Sicopal Black K 0098 FK allows the reliable detection of the polymer even at high pigment content. With its excellent processing stability, it can even be used for multiple processing steps and closed loop recycling.

To learn more about Colors & Effects' sustainable pigment solutions, click [here](#).

#### **About the Colors & Effects brand**

The Colors & Effects brand encompasses BASF's well-known expertise in colorants and effect pigments for the coatings, plastics, printing, cosmetics and agriculture markets. Fueled by entrepreneurial spirit, BASF's experts enable innovation and growth. For our customers and our company: We live colors. We boost effects. For more information about the Colors & Effects brand, visit [www.colors-effects.eu](http://www.colors-effects.eu).

#### **About BASF**

At BASF, we create chemistry for a sustainable future. We combine economic success with environmental protection and social responsibility. More than 117,000 employees in the BASF Group work on contributing to the success of our customers in nearly all sectors and almost every country in the world. Our portfolio is organized into six segments: Chemicals, Materials, Industrial Solutions, Surface Technologies, Nutrition & Care and Agricultural Solutions. BASF generated sales of €59 billion in 2019. BASF shares are traded on the stock exchange in Frankfurt (BAS) and as American Depositary Receipts (BASFY) in the U.S. Further information at [www.basf.com](http://www.basf.com).

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