

An "oldie" as the raw material of the future

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Synthetic rubbers, as produced by LANXESS for instance, often are subject to the unjustified prejudice of being a common replaceable material. But the fields of application of these high-tech rubber raw-materials, such as car tires, hoses, seals and diving suits, require top performance of their raw materials. Modern high-performance rubbers, for instance, must defy increasing temperatures in their applications and feature a better ageing stability. The first patent for a production process of synthetic rubber was awarded in 1909 to the chemist Fritz Hofmann, back then an employee of "Elberfelder Farbenfabriken Friedr. Bayer & Co". His heritage is continued nowadays by LANXESS. The history of synthetic rubber has "by far not yet ended", says the magazine "Chemische Rundschau". It will offer enough leeway for further optimizations in future.