

Step on the gas...

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In a 16-page special supplement, the daily "Handelsblatt" deals with the topic of synthetic rubber. In a comment, Dr. Axel C. Heitmann, chairman of the board of management of LANXESS AG, says that the versatile material, since its invention by the German chemist Fritz Hoffmann 100 years ago, had "radically changed almost all areas of human life". Today there were 100 different types of rubber and the material still had a lot of potential. Thus, modern car tires could save a lot of fuel and CO₂. LANXESS, the world's leading manufacturer of synthetic rubber carries on Hoffmann's legacy and commemorates the 100th anniversary with a scientific colloquium on World Rubber Day on 12th of September, 2009. Among the topics covered in the special supplement is a look at the manufacturers, which, although suffering from the worldwide economic slump, still benefit from raised demand from Asia and South Africa. "Handels-blatt" sheds light on the history of synthetic rubber as well as on some of the material's uses: Synthetic rubber is used in car tires, in conveyor belts made of rubber or in flame-retardant cable coating.