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**CONTACTS**

Scott Blanchard  
Manager, Corp. Marketing & Communications Manager  
Americhem  
Phone: 330.929.4213 x1363  
sblanchard@americhem.com

James Liddle  
Manager, Laser Plastic Welding  
LPKF Laser & Electronics  
Phone: 847.834.9675  
jliddle@lpkfusa.com

**AMERICHEM, LPKF LASER & ELECTRONICS COLLABORATE ON COLORFUL SOLUTIONS FOR THE LASER PLASTIC WELDING INDUSTRY**

**CUYAHOGA FALLS, Ohio (July 19, 2016)** – Americhem Inc., a global provider of color and additive solutions for polymeric products, and LPKF Laser & Electronics, a developer of systems and process solutions for laser plastic welding, have collaborated on a laser plastic welding technology that allows manufacturers to save weight, time and money versus using traditional materials while maintaining and optimizing part aesthetics.

Laser plastic welding is a process wherein two plastics are joined together using laser radiation. The plastics being welded have a transmissive upper layer and an absorbing lower layer, allowing the laser to heat the materials in the lower layer and bond them to another compatible material. The lower layer is often based on highly absorptive pigments such as carbon black. Americhem and LPKF have partnered together on this technology. LPKF sells the production equipment and process solutions used in laser plastic welding and Americhem provides coloring technology for both the upper and lower layers.

To provide the ultimate in design aesthetics, Americhem can match colors in the transmissive upper layer that enable the laser to pass through this visible layer and create the laser weld using the absorbing lower layer. This technology is gaining wide use in the automotive, medical and consumer products industries.

“An example of the technology’s advantages is a car taillight cover, where laser plastic welding helps ensure a tight seam,” said Brett Conway, group director, plastics for Americhem. “With LPKF’s welding equipment and Americhem’s color, this seal along the top of the taillight is visible and was actually used as part of the taillight’s creative design.”

Laser welding offers numerous advantages over competing joining methods. One of the more easily recognized advantages is that no consumables are used. This includes the absence of screws, rivets, adhesives or tape, which adds weight and is less visually appealing. Other advantages include lower joining costs, minimal part stress, the ability to create three-dimensional complex shapes, joint strength and aesthetically pleasing welds.



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“Though laser plastic welding has existed for over a decade, the demand has grown recently as automobile manufacturers sought better quality solutions, lightweighting, and robotic assembly in their manufacturing processes,” said Stephan Schmidt, President, LPKF Laser & Electronics. “Because of the ability to custom color most parts, the welds can match the other components in the interior or exterior of the vehicle.”

For more information about custom colors for laser plastic welding, contact Scott Blanchard at [sblanchard@americhem.com](mailto:sblanchard@americhem.com) or James Liddle at <mailto:jliddle@lpkfusa.com>.

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**About Americhem**

*Americhem is a global organization that delivers custom color and additive solutions for customers seeking superior performance and batch-to-batch consistency for their polymer products. The company specializes in color and additive masterbatches, and single pigment dispersions, all backed by complete technical support that ensures quality, reliability and value. Americhem operates 10 manufacturing plants and also maintains representative sales offices around the globe. Central Research & Development facilities and headquarters are located in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. For more information visit [Americhem.com](http://Americhem.com) or call 800.228.3476.*

**About LPKF Laser & Electronics**

*Established in 1976, LPKF Laser & Electronics manufactures material processing laser systems used in circuit board and microelectronics fabrication, medical technology, the automotive sector, and the production of solar cells. LPKF's worldwide headquarters is located in Hannover, Germany, and its North American headquarters resides near Portland, Oregon.*

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