

**Agricultural fiber in automotive applications: The use of flax fiber as a replacement for fiberglass in composite plastics**

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Meridian Automotive Systems is a leading supplier of technologically advanced front and rear end modules, console modules, instrument panel and other interior systems to automobile and truck manufactures. Meridian operates 30 plants in the United States, Canada and South America, supplying original equipment manufactures and major Tier One parts suppliers. Meridian Automotive Systems recently acquired Cambridge Industries manufacturing composites from flax fiber and polypropylene.

The speaker will describe how Meridian, in cooperation with Cargill, pioneered the development and application of flax polypropylene in the interiors of General Motors vehicles for the model year 2000. The presentation will highlight how Meridian spearheaded the use of this composite material as an alternative to conventional plastics and other fiber reinforced materials, and will outline the benefits this material provides in the areas of cost, strength, manufacturing and recyclability. Alternative applications and uses of this versatile, environmentally friendly material will be discussed.