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Original Multifunctional nanostructured composites containing biomass-derived functional additives / Bifulco, A.; Malucelli, G.; Imparato, C.; Passaro, J.; Climaco, I.; Aronne, A ELETTRONICO (2024), pp. 81-81. (Intervento presentato al convegno 14th EASN International Conference tenutosi a Thessaloniki nel 8-11 October 2024).
Availability: This version is available at: 11583/2993261 since: 2024-10-10T10:04:39Z
Publisher: Non Disponibile
Published DOI:
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14th EASN International Conference

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Book of Abstracts

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Innovative Technology and Manufacturing Processes to Realize Structural Smart Composites

Chaired by:

Prof. Liberata Guadagno & Prof. Roberto Pantani (University of Salerno, Italy)

Multifunctional nanostructured composites containing biomass-derived functional additives

Aurelio Bifulco¹, Giulio Malucelli², Claudio Imparato¹, Jessica Passaro³, Immacolata Climaco¹, Antonio Aronne¹

- ¹ Department of Chemical, Materials and Production Engineering, University of Naples Federico II, Italy
- ² Department of Applied Science and Technology, Politecnico di Torino, Italy
- ³ Institute for Polymers, Composites and Biomaterials, National Council of Research, Naples, Italy

Abstract: Due to their superior thermal stability and chemical resistance, epoxy resins represent a primary choice in several industrial applications, including the manufacturing of protective and functional coatings. The addition of properly designed fillers allows for the preparation of epoxy coatings showing surface hydrophobicity, anti-icing, shape recovery capability, luminescence, and improved flame retardancy that is required to contrast the high flammability of such materials. Herein, we propose two approaches to enhance these properties by sustainable sol-gel methodologies: the functionalization of hemp microparticles (HMPs), obtained from waste hemp fibers, to turn them into hydrophobic and anti-icing fillers, and the tailoring of carbon quantum dots (CQDs), hydrothermally synthesized starting from humic acids, to make them able to act as flame retardant and hydrophobic additives. A low content of HMPs (i.e., 2 wt.%) cast on aeronautical carbon fiber-reinforced panels increased both their hydrophobicity, giving a water contact angle (CA) 30° higher than that the uncovered panels, and the icing time at -30 °C, which was doubled than unfilled epoxy resin coatings. On the other side, 0.1 wt.% of silanized CQDs incorporated into the epoxy matrix, without using phosphorus and halogen based flame retardants, could lead to nanocomposites exhibiting photoluminescence, high hydrophobicity (up to 137° of CA), fire resistance, and heat/flame-triggered shape recovery features.

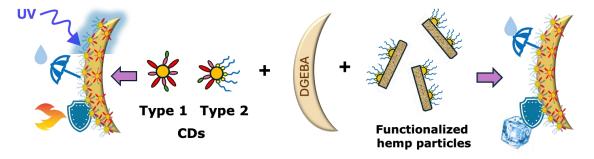


Figure 1: Synthesis strategies for the production of hydrophobic epoxy-based coatings