



## Sustainable Caps: German Packaging Award for Werner & Mertz

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The Recyclate Initiative from Werner & Mertz has won the German Packaging Award in the category “New Material” for the development of flip-top caps made of 100 percent recycled polypropylene (rPP) from the Yellow Bag. The family-run company based in Mainz uses the mass produced caps on its Frosch brand products.



Sustainable closures for Frosch: The Recyclate Initiative received this year's German Packaging Award in the category “New Material” for the development of flip-top hinged caps made of 100 percent polypropylene recycles from the Yellow Bag. Photo: Werner & Mertz

The jury praised the development in the award announcement on 21 August,. “The product developers from ‘The Green Dot – Duales System Deutschland GmbH’ company have succeeded in producing a polypropylene re-granulate from household packaging waste that fulfills the very high requirements for flip-top closures necessary in the injection molding process and in their application. The strength of the hinge strip and the drop-breaking strength were



particularly notable. This innovation has led to the development of another plastic material for the technical recycling of packaging materials.“

Working together in the Recyclate Initiative, Werner & Mertz GmbH, The Green Dot – Duales System Deutschland GmbH, HEINZ PLASTICS Böhm GmbH and Clariant Plastics & Coatings (Germany) GmbH, succeeded in developing and producing a hinged cap made of post-consumer recyclates which compares favorably to conventional caps made of virgin material.

The recycled polypropylene material is provided by The Green Dot. The recyclates are part of the Systalen product family, the only post-consumer recycled plastic currently available that fulfills the tough quality demands such a cap makes of the material. The caps are manufactured by HEINZ PLASTICS Böhm GmbH in Langenau in Upper Franconia. The green color of the cap comes from a “cradle-to-cradle” masterbatch developed by Clariant and specially adapted for The Green Dot’s Systalen recyclates. Because this pigmentation is sustainable, it is eligible for certification by Cradle to Cradle™.

“The German Packaging Award for our new development confirms the successful work done by the Recyclate Initiative. The new material will make it possible to recycle not just bottles but all packaging components and keep them in a closed loop. It is especially important that we have been able to maintain the same high level of quality,” said Reinhard Schneider, owner of Werner & Mertz and the initiator of the Recyclate Initiative.

“The German Packaging Award for the FROSCH flip-top caps made of Systalen is new proof of how valuable the Recyclate Initiative is for plastic recycling,” said Michael Wiener, CEO of The Green Dot.

FROSCH lemon cleaner in a 750 ml bottle is the first product with the new cap to be placed in the retail market. Werner & Mertz will gradually equip other FROSCH brand products with the sustainable cap. Plans also call for Cradle to Cradle™ certification.

The official presentation of the German Packaging Award will take place in Berlin on 26 September.

Last year the Recyclate Initiative attracted attention with the world’s first bottles made of 100 percent HDPE obtained from the Yellow Bag collection system. For that achievement the Initiative received the German Packaging Award in Gold.

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