

*Polybutylene Terephthalate*  
*98/99S6*

*July 1999*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
<b>I EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	1
A. PROPERTIES	1
B. CHEMISTRY	4
C. PBT PROCESSING OVERVIEW	6
D. ECONOMICS	7
E. SUPPLY AND DEMAND	9
<b>II INTRODUCTION</b>	12
<b>III TECHNOLOGY</b>	32
A. CHEMISTRY	32
B. PBT PROCESSING OVERVIEW	34
C. PROCESS DESIGN – BATCH POLYMERIZATION FROM DMT	35
D. PROCESS DESIGN – CONTINUOUS POLYMERIZATION FROM BDO/DMT	39
E. PROCESS DESIGN – CONTINUOUS POLYMERIZATION FROM BDO/PTA	44
<b>IV PROCESS ECONOMICS</b>	47
A. BASIS	47
B. INVESTMENT	49
C. ECONOMICS	49
D. RAW MATERIAL SENSITIVITY	55
E. SENSITIVITY TO SCALE	60
F. IMPACT OF LOWER PBT PRODUCTION COSTS ON PBT PRICING	65
<b>V COMMERCIAL ANALYSIS</b>	67
A. END-USE APPLICATIONS	67
1. Overview	67
2. Electrical/Electronics	67
3. Transportation (Automotive)	67
4. Appliances	68
5. Other	69
6. New Developments in PBT Products	69
7. Threats to PBT	70

**TABLE OF CONTENTS  
(Continued)**

	<b>Page</b>
<b>B. MAJOR REGIONS</b>	70
1. North America	70
(a) Demand	70
(b) Production	71
(c) Demand Projections	74
2. Western Europe	76
(a) Demand	76
(b) Production	76
(c) Demand Projection	78
3. Japan	78
(a) Demand	78
(b) Production	81
(c) Demand Projection	82
4. Rest of World	84
(a) Demand	84
(b) Production	84
(c) Demand Projection	86
5. Global Summary	87
 <b>GLOSSARY</b>	 92
 <b>APPENDIX</b>	 93
 <b>PERP TITLE INDEX</b>	 98

## TABLES

	<b>Page</b>	
Table I.A.1	Property Comparison of PBT Grades	4
Table I.D.1	Cost Comparison of PBT Polymerization Processes	8
Table I.E.1	Global PBT Consumption by Region, 1995-2005	9
Table I.E.2	Global PBT Consumption by End Use, 1995-2005	9
Table II.1	Property Comparison of PBT Grades	20
Table II.2	Performance Factors (Neat Resin) of Interpolymer Competition	26
Table II.3	Properties of Selected Glass Filled Engineering Thermoplastics	27
Table IV.B.1	U.S.G.C. PBT Production Capital Estimates	49
Table IV.C.1	Cost Comparison of PBT Polymerization Processes	51
Table IV.C.2	Cost Estimate of PBT Production via Batch Process from DMT	52
Table IV.C.3	Cost Estimate of PBT Production via Continuous Process from DMT	53
Table IV.C.4	Cost Estimate of PBT Production via Continuous Process from PTA	54
Table IV.D.1	Cost Estimate of 1,4-Butanediol Production via Propylene Oxide Hydroformylation	56
Table IV.D.2	Cost Estimate of 1,4-Butanediol Production via Butadiene Acetoxylation Process	57
Table IV.D.3	Cost Estimate of 1,4-Butanediol/THF (10:2.2) Production via Butane via Maleic Acid Process	58
Table IV.E.1	Cost Estimate of PBT Production via Continuous Process from DMT	61
Table IV.E.2	Cost Estimate of PBT Production via Continuous Process from PTA	62
Table IV.E.3	Cost Comparison of Scale Sensitivity of PBT Polymerization Processes	63
Table V.B.1	North American PBT Capacity, End 1998	71
Table V.B.2	North American PBT Consumption by End Use	74
Table V.B.3	West European PBT Capacity, End 1998	76
Table V.B.4	West European PBT Consumption by End Use	78
Table V.B.5	Japanese PBT Capacity, End 1998	81
Table V.B.6	Non-Integrated Japanese PBT Compounders	82
Table V.B.7	Japanese PBT Consumption by End Use, 1995-2005	82
Table V.B.8	Firms with Occasional PBT Base Resin Production in ROW, 1998	86
Table V.B.9	Rest of World PBT Consumption by End Use, 1995-2005	86
Table V.B.10	Global PBT Consumption by Region, 1995-2005	89
Table V.B.11	Global PBT Consumption by End Use, 1995-2005	89

## FIGURES

		<b>Page</b>
Figure I.A.1	Properties of PBT	3
Figure I.E.1	Global Consumption of PBT by Region	10
Figure I.E.2	Global PBT Consumption by End Use	11
Figure II.1	Properties of PBT	13
Figure II.2	PBT Strengths and Weaknesses versus Primary Market Requirements	15
Figure II.3	Additives used to Improved PBT Performance	16
Figure II.4	Strengths/Weaknesses of PBT/PET Blends	18
Figure II.5	Polyester/Polycarbonate Blends	19
Figure II.6	Engineering Thermoplastics	21
Figure II.7	Competition among the Engineering Thermoplastics	22
Figure II.8	Engineering Thermoplastics Price/Volume Exclusion Curve	23
Figure II.9	Primary Engineering Thermoplastics End-Use Market Requirements	25
Figure II.10	Properties of Composite Materials	28
Figure III.C.1	PBT via BDO/DMT Batch Process	36
Figure III.C.2	1,4-Butanediol Recovery and Purification	38
Figure III.D.1	Continuous Transesterification of DMT and BDO to Oligomer	40
Figure III.D.2	Continuous Polycondensation of PBT Oligomer	41
Figure III.D.3	Pelletization of PBT Base Resin	43
Figure III.E.1	Continuous Direct Esterification of PTA and BDO to Oligomer	45
Figure IV.C.1	Cost Comparison of PBT Processes	50
Figure IV.D.1	Effect of 1,4-Butanediol Cost on PBT Resin Economics	59
Figure IV.E.1	Cost and Scale Comparisons of PBT Processes	64
Figure V.B.1	North American PBT Consumption by End Use, 1998	72
Figure V.B.2	North American PBT Consumption by End Use	75
Figure V.B.3	West European PBT Consumption by End Use, 1998	77
Figure V.B.4	West European PBT Consumption by End Use	79
Figure V.B.5	Japanese PBT Consumption by End Use, 1998	80
Figure V.B.6	Japanese PBT Consumption by End Use	83
Figure V.B.7	Rest of World PBT Consumption by End Use, 1998	85
Figure V.B.8	ROW PBT Consumption by End Use	87
Figure V.B.9	Global Consumption of PBT by Region	88
Figure V.B.10	Global PBT Consumption by End Use, 1998	90
Figure V.B.11	Global PBT Consumption by End Use	91