

## **Wacoal Collaborates with BASF to Expand Meloop Technology into Automotive Applications**

**— Armrest (Concept Model) Being Exhibited at AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERING EXPOSITION 2026 NAGOYA —**

June 17, 2026

Wacoal Holdings Corp.

Wacoal Corp.

Wacoal Corp. (head office: Kyoto-shi; Keisuke Kawanishi, Representative Director, President and CEO; hereafter, "Wacoal"), a subsidiary of Wacoal Holdings Corp., hereby announces that it will accelerate the expansion of applications for its proprietary Meloop technology in the automotive field in collaboration with chemical manufacturer BASF Japan Ltd. (head office: Chuo-ku, Tokyo; Rachib de Matos Zeidam, Representative Director and President; hereafter, "BASF").

Wacoal has developed a concept armrest model using Meloop technology, which will be exhibited at the BASF booth at the AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERING EXPOSITION 2026 NAGOYA from June 17 to 19, 2026. In May 2026, Wacoal opened the Meloop Lab R&D base, and it has since been developing applications for the Meloop technology. The announced initiative is a part of these efforts.



### **■ Collaboration with BASF to advance automotive applications for Meloop**

To expand the applications for the Meloop technology that has been developed in-house, Wacoal has been working with BASF to jointly develop bra cups using Elastollan®, a material based on thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU) from BASF. Building on this collaboration, Wacoal is accelerating the development of automotive applications for Meloop.

A feature of Wacoal's proprietary Meloop technology is the use of the melt-blown method, which makes it possible to create three-dimensional objects directly from fibers using a single process. It makes it possible to create non-woven structures without using adhesives or multi-layer structures. By spraying fibers to create three-dimensional shapes, the integrated formation of components is possible, which reduces the number of processes below what was necessary with conventional multi-process manufacturing. Meloop also makes it possible to produce lightweight products with the functionality that is needed for their intended use by adjusting the

thickness and physical properties of the products in the design phase. Further, it is expected that Meloop will help reduce environmental impact by facilitating the efficient use of materials and improving durability, a key requirement for automotive components.

These features conform to the performance requirements and design-related needs for automotive parts, a promising area of Meloop applications. In the latest initiative, Wacoal has combined Meloop with BASF's Elastollan® TPU, a material well suited to the Meloop forming process. Elastollan® TPU features both thermoplastic processability and elastomeric properties, facilitating the formation of flexible and functional 3D fiber structures using Meloop. It also facilitates mono-material designs, making it possible to simplify product designs and manufacturing processes.

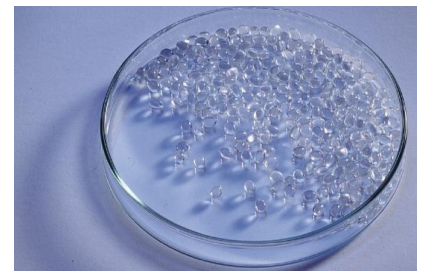
The concept armrest was developed by combining Meloop-based forming technologies and BASF's material. Wacoal is examining the possibility of applications in the field of automotive components from the perspectives of the technology's facilitation of lightweight products, the degree of freedom in the design process, and recyclability. Wacoal positions the exhibition as an example of its development of applications centered around the Meloop technology.



Concept model designed for use as an armrest, exhibited at the Automotive Engineering Exposition 2026 NAGOYA.



A bra cup production process using Meloop, showing fibers being sprayed onto a 3D-printed mold and then removed after forming.



Elastollan® pellets — a TPU material from BASF used in the Meloop process

## ■ Statements from the two companies

Tsuyoshi Kumura, Corporate Officer, Head of Meloop Project Office, New Business Development Office and New Business Development Division, Wacoal

"Wacoal is developing products in pursuit of comfort in our everyday movements through the combination of high-quality materials, creativity, and technological innovation. We are greatly looking forward to expanding the applications for our Meloop technology into the automotive interior field and beyond the apparel sector through our collaboration with BASF."

Rohit Roop Ghosh, Vice President, Business Management TPU, Performance Materials Asia Pacific, BASF

"Wacoal's innovation of its proprietary technology into new application areas strongly aligns with the forward-looking, co-creation approach we value at BASF. With our expertise in material innovation and extensive experiences in automotive applications, we are pleased to partner Wacoal in exploring new concepts and bringing innovation into new industries."

## ■ Future Outlook

Wacoal is engaged in co-creation activities with internal and external partners to develop applications for the technology, with the Meloop Lab as the hub of these activities. The initiative in the automotive sector is an example of these efforts. Wacoal is also considering expanding the technology into various sectors where it will have non-woven fabric applications. Wacoal will move forward with the social implementation of Meloop, a functional material technology that generates little waste, is recyclable, and has other features, to create new value and expand its business domains.

## [Reference information]

<AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERING EXPOSITION 2026 NAGOYA>

Exhibition name: AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERING EXPOSITION 2026 NAGOYA

Period: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 to Friday, June 19, 2026

URL: <https://aee.expo-info.jsae.or.jp/ja/>

### Outline of Meloop

The new Meloop technology developed by Wacoal's Human Science Research & Development Center is used to create three-dimensional objects using the melt-blown method of manufacturing non-woven fabric. In the melt-blown method, a raw material resin is heated and extruded from a spinning nozzle, stretched using high-speed heated air, and made into microfibers. At the same time, the fibers are fused together using heat, making it possible to form a non-woven fabric without using adhesives.

### Features of Meloop

- ① It makes products easily recyclable, including polyurethane, polylactate, and other mono-material products
- ② It reduces wasted materials because it makes it possible to create three-dimensional objects by spraying fibers
- ③ Products can be colored by adding colorants or pigments to raw materials, which eliminates the need for a dyeing process.
- ④ Fibers are sprayed onto an object created using a 3D printer, which makes the use of molds unnecessary, making this technology ideal for small-lot production.



### About the Wacoal Human Science Research & Development Center

The Wacoal Human Science Research & Development Center is a Wacoal research institution that was established in 1964. Scientists at this facility are scientifically exploring the human body from the perspectives of beauty, comfort and health. Since its foundation more than 60 years ago, data has been accumulated at the center. This data is applied in the development of new products, and it is Wacoal's infrastructure for improving quality and expanding its business domains. In recent years, the facility has been exploring the relationship between the body and the mind, proposing products and services based on insights and the needs of consumers and studying and developing new materials and technologies.

### <BASF>

At BASF, we create chemistry for a sustainable future. Our ambition: We want to be the preferred chemical company to enable our customers' green transformation. We combine economic success with environmental protection and social responsibility. BASF Group contributes to the success of our customers in nearly all sectors and almost every country in the world.

### <Elastollan®>

Elastollan®, BASF's premium thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU), combines durability, flexibility and long-lasting performance with a high level of design freedom. Its excellent elasticity and shape recovery enable comfortable, responsive designs, while its pleasant tactile properties and resistance to abrasion, oils and everyday wear help maintain performance over time. With broad versatility across a wide range of softness levels, transparency and color options, Elastollan® supports innovative product concepts across diverse consumer and industrial applications. Backed by more than 60 years of TPU expertise, BASF collaborates closely with partners to develop tailored material solutions that meet evolving performance and sustainability requirements.

### <Media Inquiries>

Corporate Communications Department (Public Relations)

Wacoal Holdings Corp.

Email : [pr-wmg@wacoal.co.jp](mailto:pr-wmg@wacoal.co.jp)

### <Technical Inquiries>

Melooop Project Office, New Business Development Division

Wacoal Corp.

Email : [info-jinkaken-wmg@wacoal.co.jp](mailto:info-jinkaken-wmg@wacoal.co.jp)