

## Toyota to use 'Eco Plastics' in hybrid vehicles

*Toyota is significantly increasing their use of bioplastics to 60% of interior components within 2009. We spoke to Kaora Inoue, from the biomass engineering development department at Toyota and a speaker at EFIB 2009 to find out more.*

Mr Inoue explained that Toyota see industrial biotechnology as a significant part of their future plans to improve sustainability and reduce reliance on oil consumption in car manufacturing and the increased use of eco plastics may be just the start:

"We announced plans to increase use of plant-derived, carbon neutral plastics in more vehicle models, starting with a new hybrid vehicle this year. Toyota newly developed plastics, collectively known as "Ecological Plastic", are to be used in scuff plates, headliners, seat cushions and other interior vehicle parts. Within 2009, we aim for Ecological Plastic to account for approximately 60 percent of the interior components in vehicles that feature it."

However, he also recognised there are currently significant barriers to overcome, there are limited biomaterials available that are suitable for automotive applications and there are insufficient biomass sources currently. Mr Inoue also acknowledged that high costs were a barrier to more wide scale mass production.

'We expect biomass to become one of the main pillars of resources for general products in the whole industry related to chemicals', Mr Inoue said.

These challenges will be discussed in depth at the forthcoming conference with dedicated feedstock sessions and panel debates. Kaora Inoue will be joined by 40 other industry leaders at this year's European Forum for Industrial Biotechnology to talk about the vision of where companies like Toyota would like to be in 2020

**To see the full program visit our website at [www.efibforum.com](http://www.efibforum.com) or contact the event manager Caroline Potapa at +44 1372 802101 or at [caroline.potapa@pira-international.com](mailto:caroline.potapa@pira-international.com)**