

# **Gloxil iM16k A**

## **in Polyamide and Polypropylene –**

### **The easy way towards future.**

**Author: Hubert Oggermüller**



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## INTRODUCTION

## EXPERIMENTAL

## RESULTS

## SUMMARY

- In recent years, the topic of lightweight construction has steadily increased in importance, especially in the area of traffic and transport.
- Thermoplastics play an important role here, including polyamide and polypropylene. These already have relatively low densities and thus component weights.
- Various options are available for further weight optimization, and hollow glass microspheres play a particularly important role here.
- 3M™ Glass Bubbles are used for this purpose due to their positive properties.
- Surface functionalization by means of covalent bonding of organofunctional silane is a suitable method for optimizing mechanical properties.



# Objective

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To show positive effects of surface functionalization in

- Polyamide PA6 and
- Polypropylene Copolymer

of **GLOXIL iM16k A** compared to 3M™ Glass Bubbles iM16k on the mechanical property profile



# Surface Functionalization

A special process creates the **GLOXIL iM16k A** based on the micro hollow glass sphere 3M™ Glass Bubble iM16k

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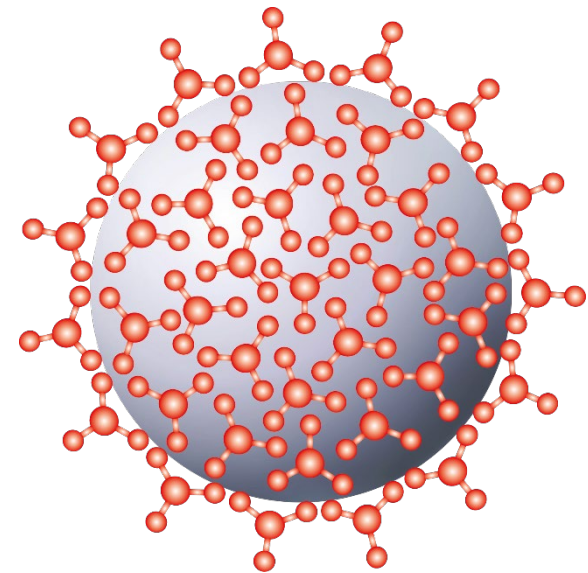
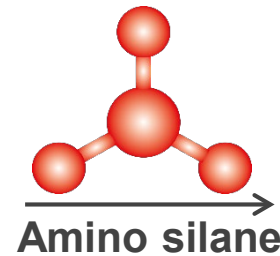
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**3M™ Glass Bubbles  
iM16k**



**GLOXIL iM16k A**



## Characteristics GLOXIL iM16k A

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|                               |                      |       |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------|
| Density                       | [g/cm <sup>3</sup> ] | 0.46  |
| Particle size D <sub>50</sub> | [μm]                 | 22    |
| Particle size D <sub>97</sub> | [μm]                 | 45    |
| Specific surface area BET     | [m <sup>2</sup> /g]  | 2     |
| Air jet screening<br>> 125 μm | [%]                  | 0.2   |
| Flotation rate                | [%]                  | 96    |
| pH                            |                      | 10    |
| Color L* (CIELAB)             |                      | 98    |
| Functionalization             |                      | Amino |

Typical properties, no specification



# Selection

**HOFFMANN**  
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**Polyamide PA6**  
**Ultrad® B3K**

**PP Copolymer**  
**Bormod™ BF970MO**



Hollow glass bubbles only



Hollow glass bubbles only

Combination



Glass fibers + hollow glass  
bubbles

Combination



Talc / hollow glass bubbles

to Overall Summary





# PA6 Compound Formulations

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Objective:

Density / weight reduction and still good mechanical properties

| PA Compound Ultramid® B3K<br>BASF<br>Melt volume rate MVR 160 cm³/10 min (275 °C, 5 kg) |                                    |                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 3M™ Glass Bubbles<br>iM16k                                                              | 0 to 14 % (m/m)<br>0 to 29 % (v/v) | ---                                |
| GLOXIL iM16k A                                                                          | ---                                | 0 to 14 % (m/m)<br>0 to 29 % (v/v) |
| Total                                                                                   | 100                                | 100                                |

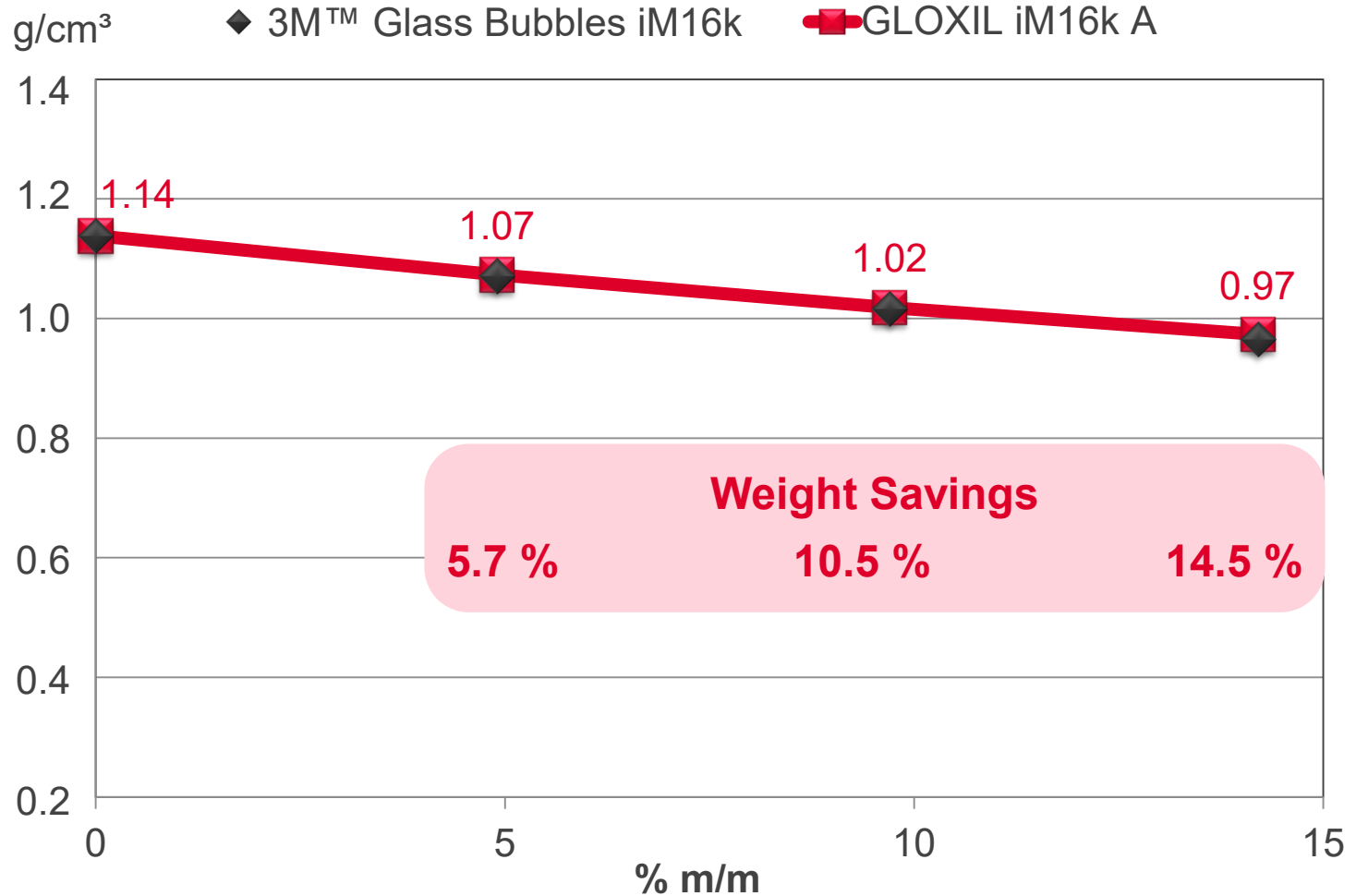
All results were determined in the freshly molded (dry) state

Data determined by 3M Advanced Materials Division, Special Additives Laboratory



# Density and Weight Reduction

measured





# Tensile Modulus

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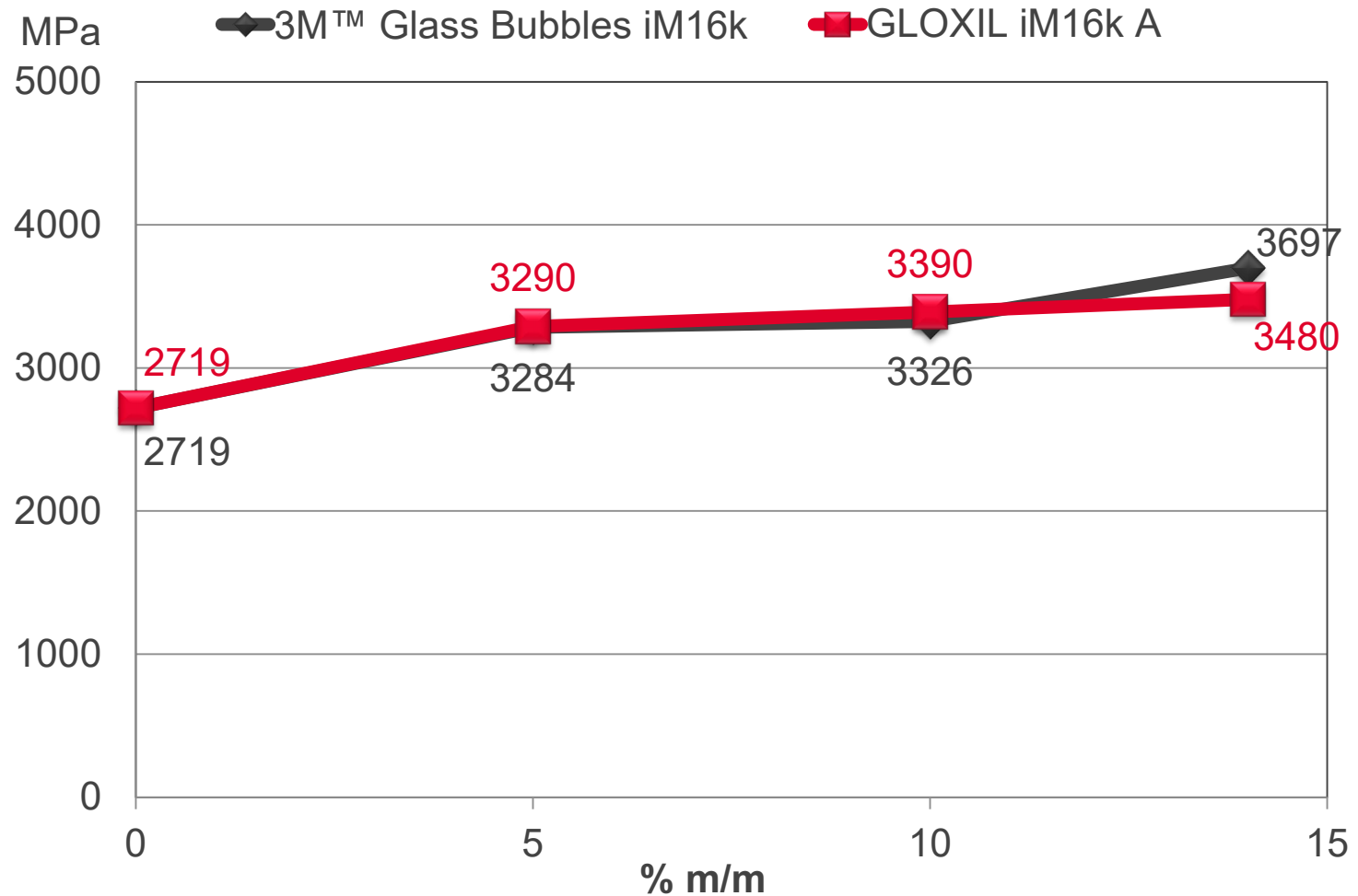
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# Flexural Modulus

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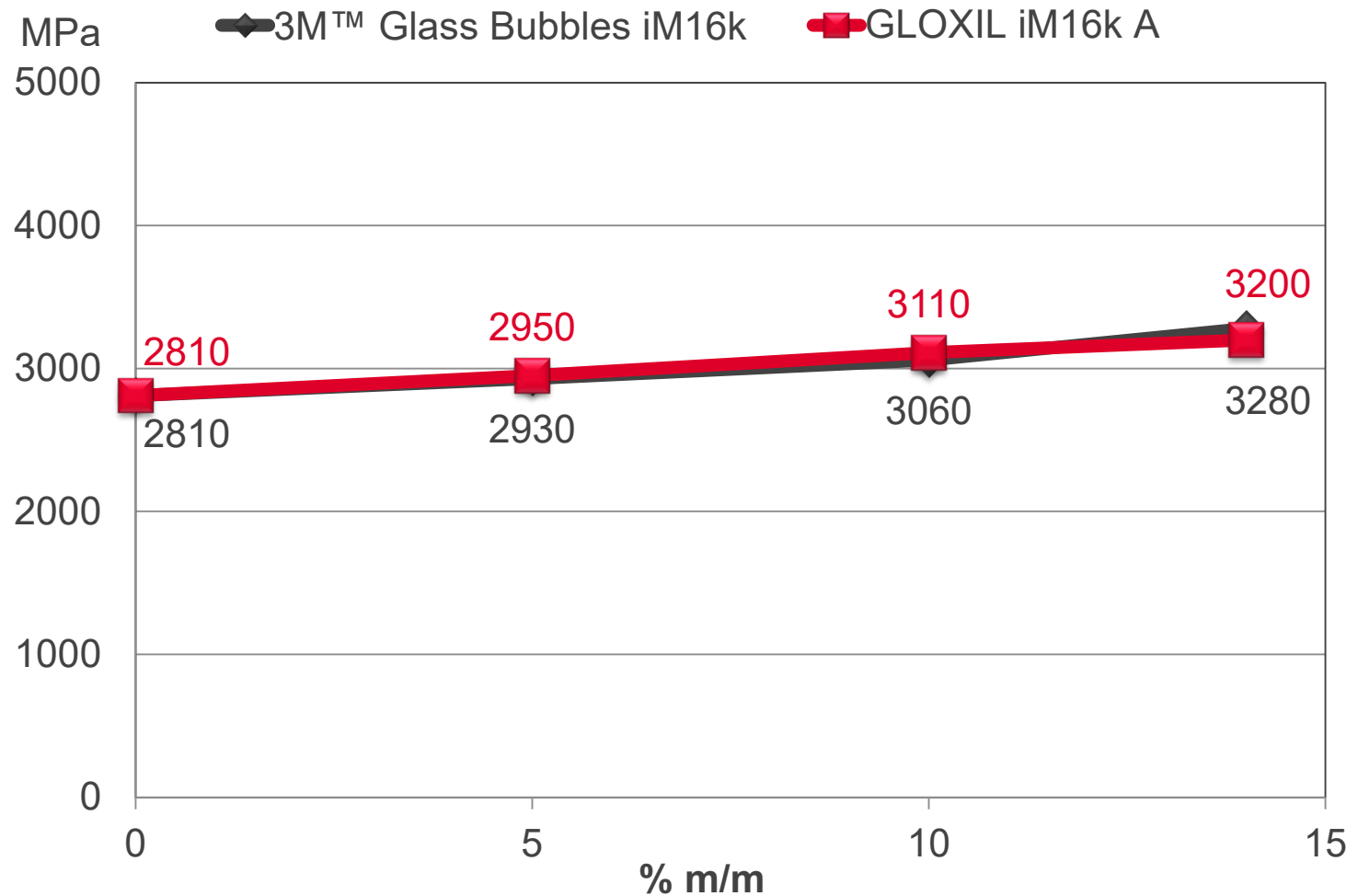
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# Yield Stress

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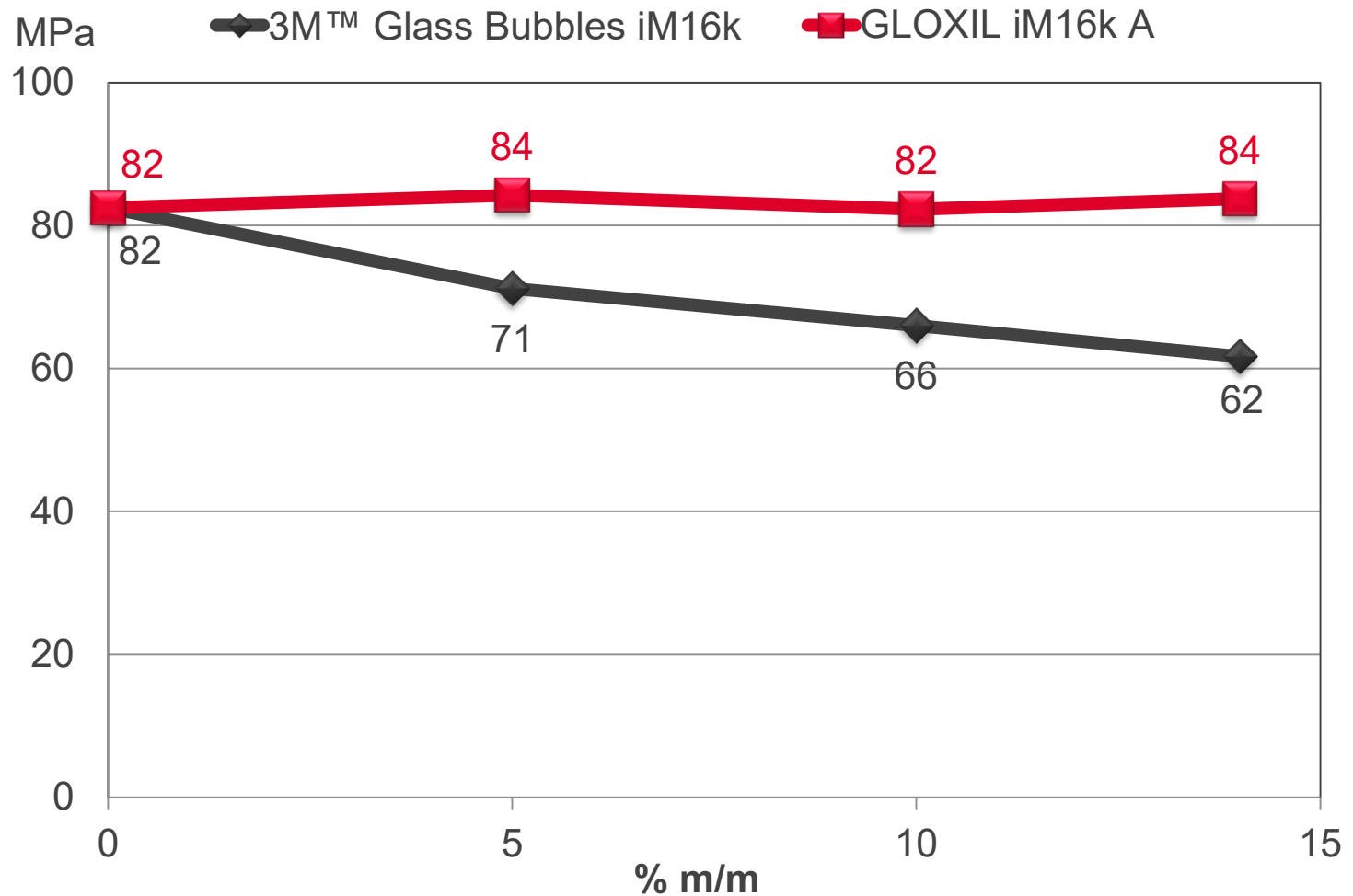
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# Yield Strain

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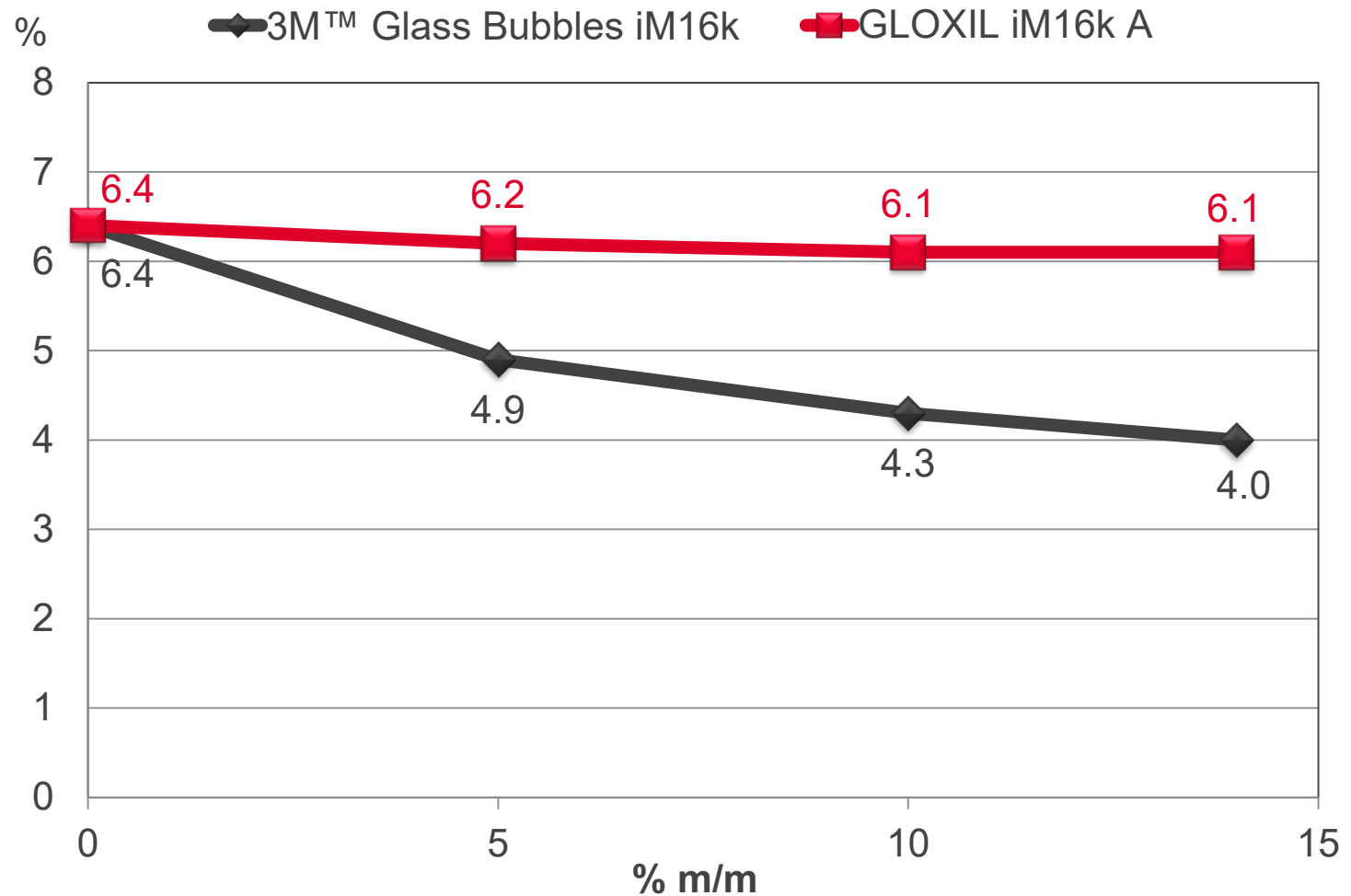
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# Flexural Strength

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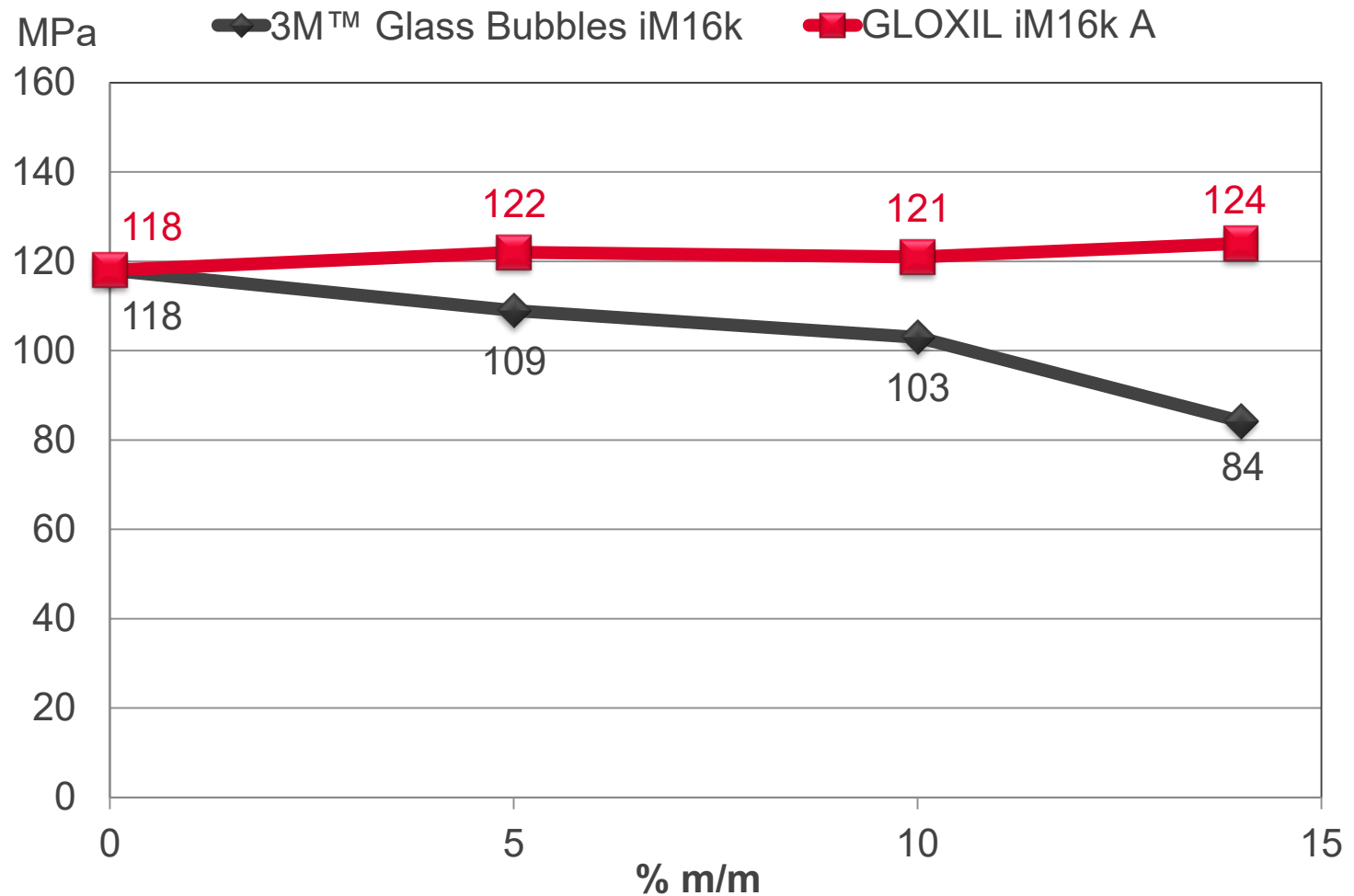
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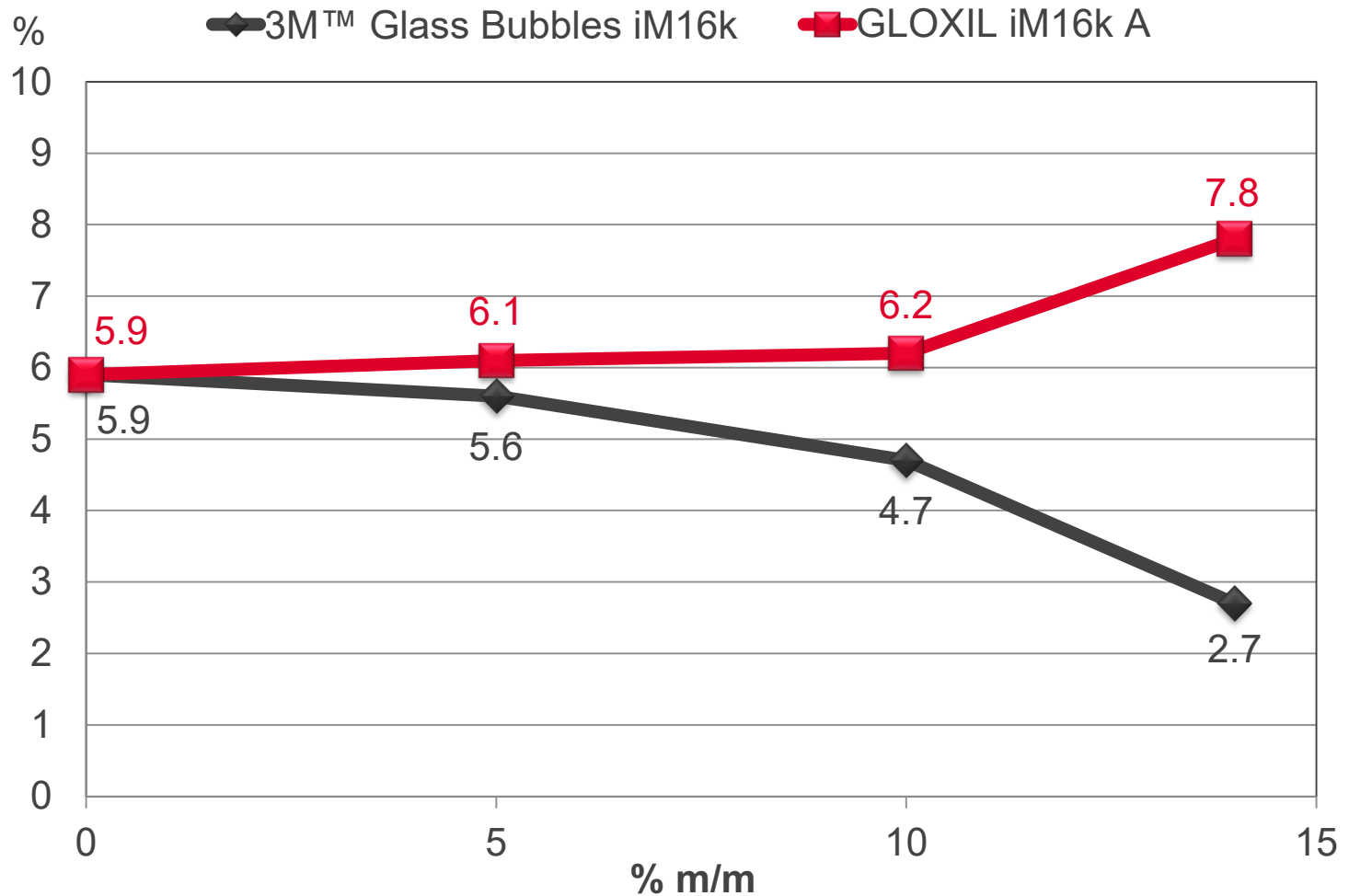
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# Flexural strain

at flexural strength





# Impact Strength Charpy

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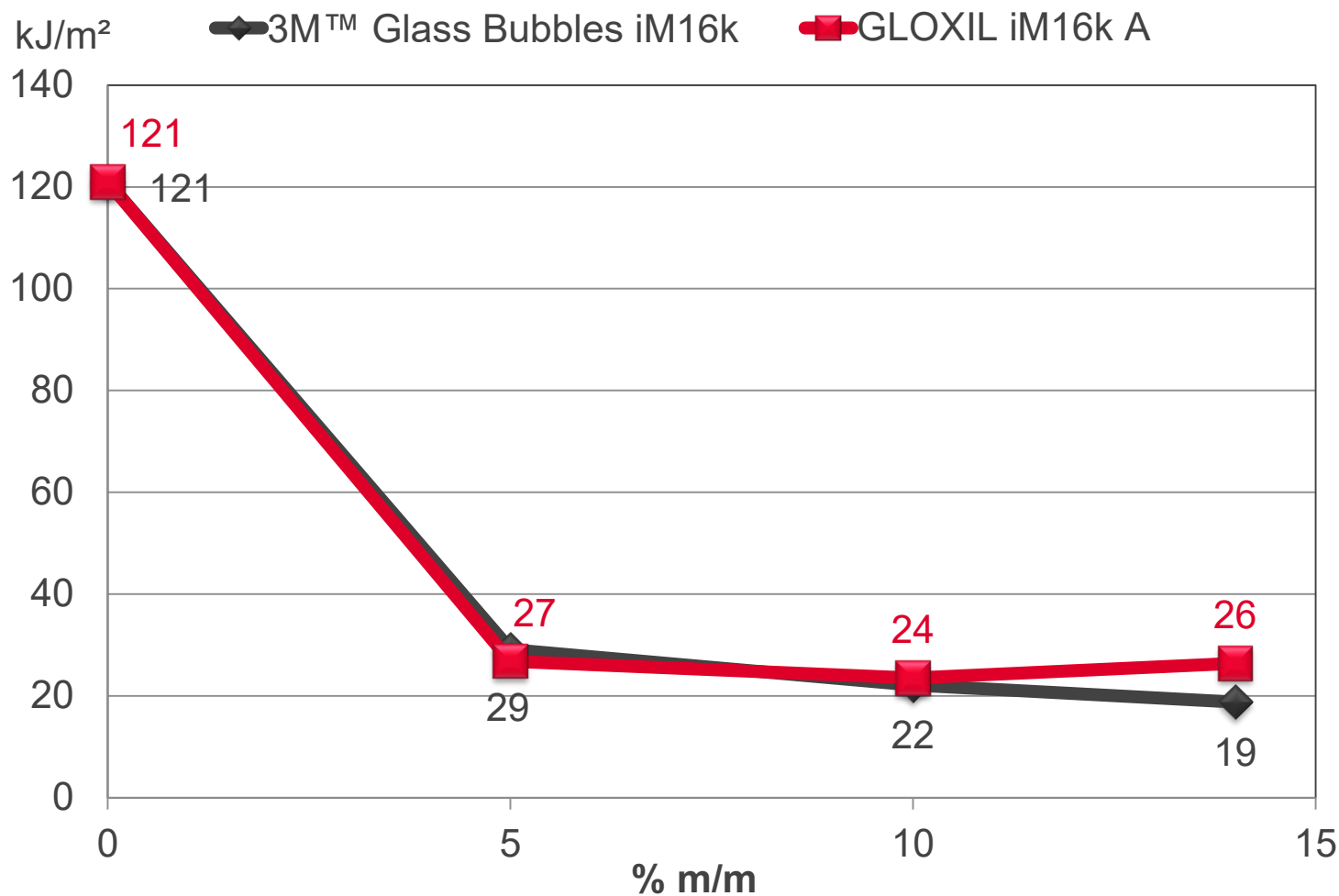
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# Notched Impact Strength Charpy

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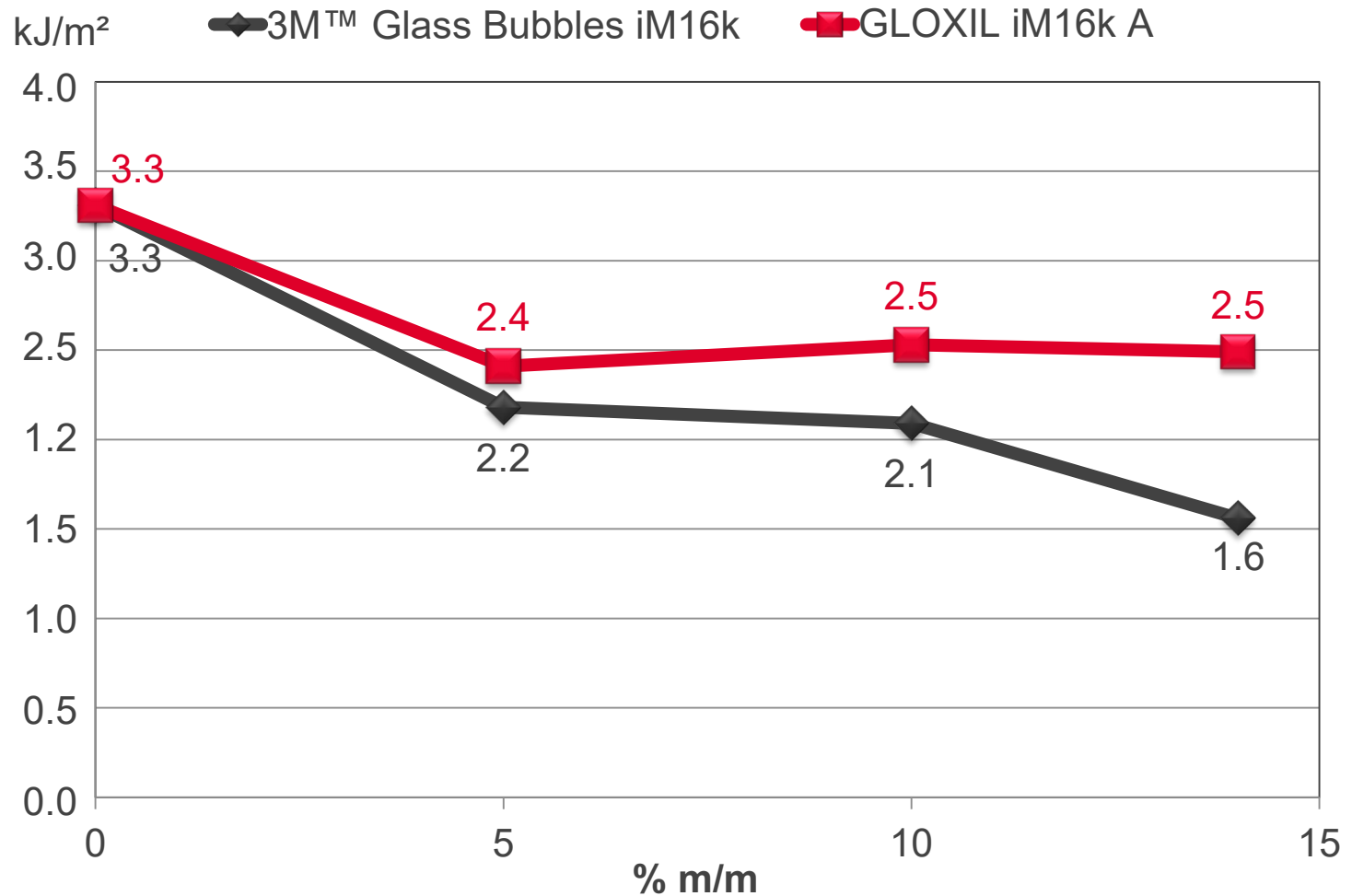
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# Summary

## PA6

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**GLOXIL iM16k A** shows in comparison to the untreated hollow glass spheres:

- Same density and thus weight saving potential
- Comparable increase in stiffness (tensile modulus and flexural modulus)
- + Significantly higher yield stress, largely independent of the filler content at the level of the unfilled PA6
- + Significantly higher yield strain, largely independent of the filler content at the level of unfilled PA6
- + Significantly higher flexural strength, with increasing filler content even higher than the unfilled PA6
- + Slightly higher impact strength
- + Slightly higher notched impact strength
- **Objective achieved:**  
**density / weight reduction and good mechanical properties**
- + Expectation: improved scratch resistance





# More Results PA6 Glass Fibers + Glass Bubbles

**HOFFMANN**  
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## Objective:

Increase of filler content/stiffness without increase of density/weight and still good mechanical properties

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PA6 GF15  
+ Glass Bubbles

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| PA Compound Ultramid® B3K<br>BASF<br>Melt volume rate MVR 160 cm³/10 min (275 °C, 5 kg) |                         |                         |                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Glass fibers                                                                            | 15 % (m/m)<br>8 % (v/v) | 17 % (m/m)<br>8 % (v/v) | 17 % (m/m)<br>8 % (v/v) |
| 3M™ Glass Bubbles<br>iM16k                                                              | ---                     | 4 % (m/m)<br>10 % (v/v) | ---                     |
| GLOXIL iM16k A                                                                          | ---                     | ---                     | 4 % (m/m)<br>10 % (v/v) |
| Total                                                                                   | 100                     | 100                     | 100                     |

Data determined by 3M Advanced Materials Division, Special Additives Laboratory

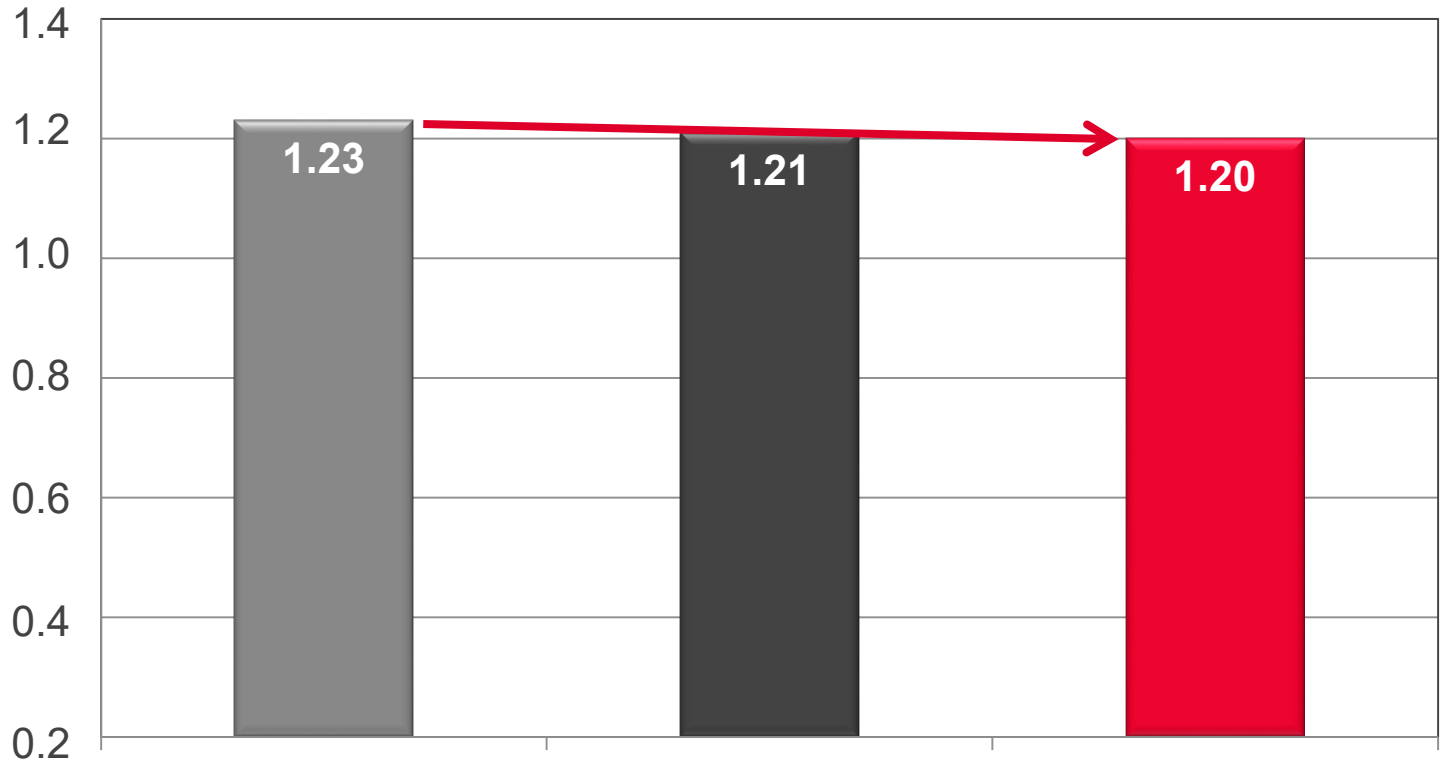


# Density

**HOFFMANN**  
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measured

g/cm<sup>3</sup>



no  
hollow glass spheres

3M™ Glass Bubbles  
iM16k

GLOXIL iM16k A

4 % m/m = 10 % v/v

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# Tensile Modulus

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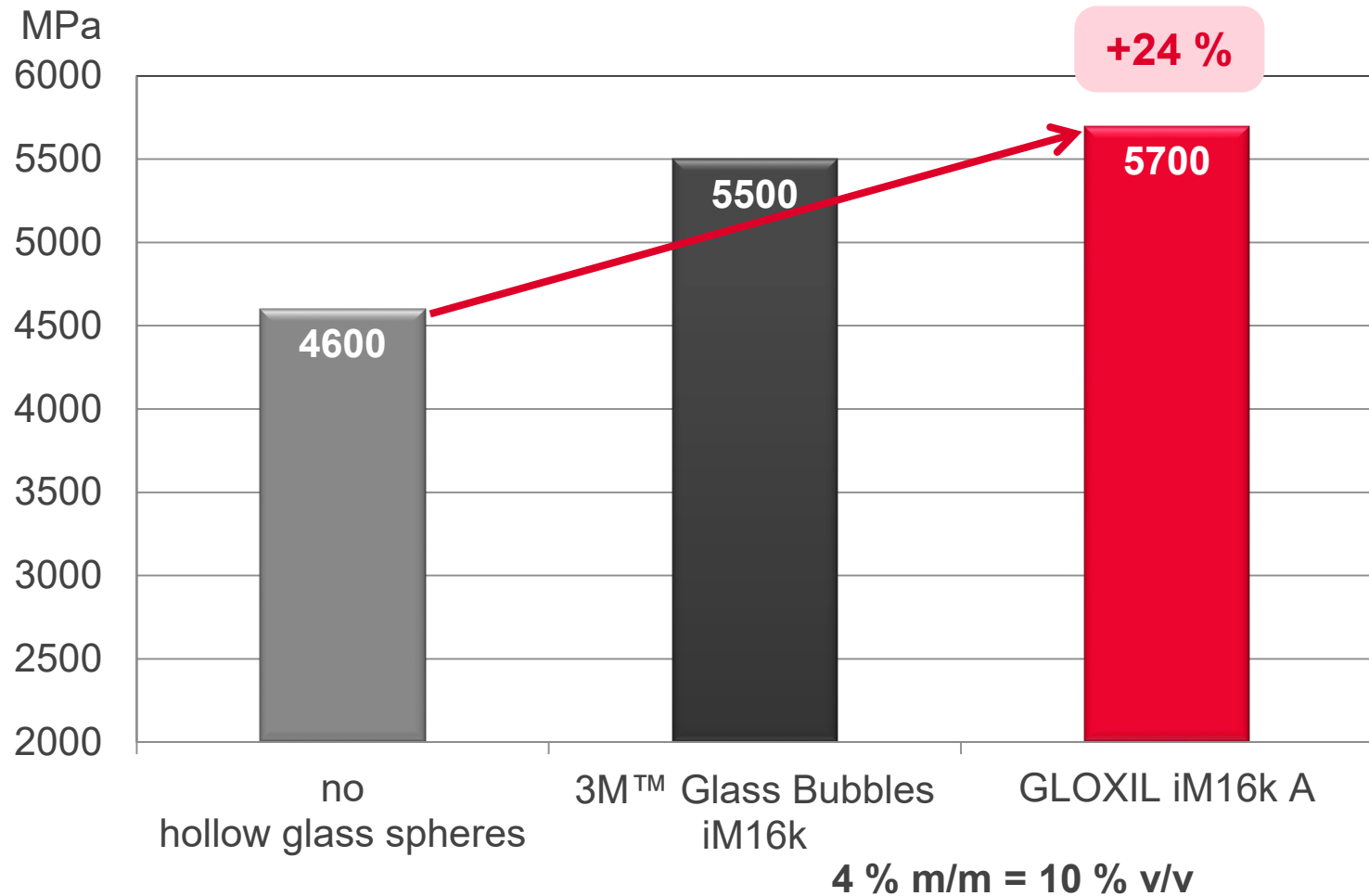
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# Flexural Modulus

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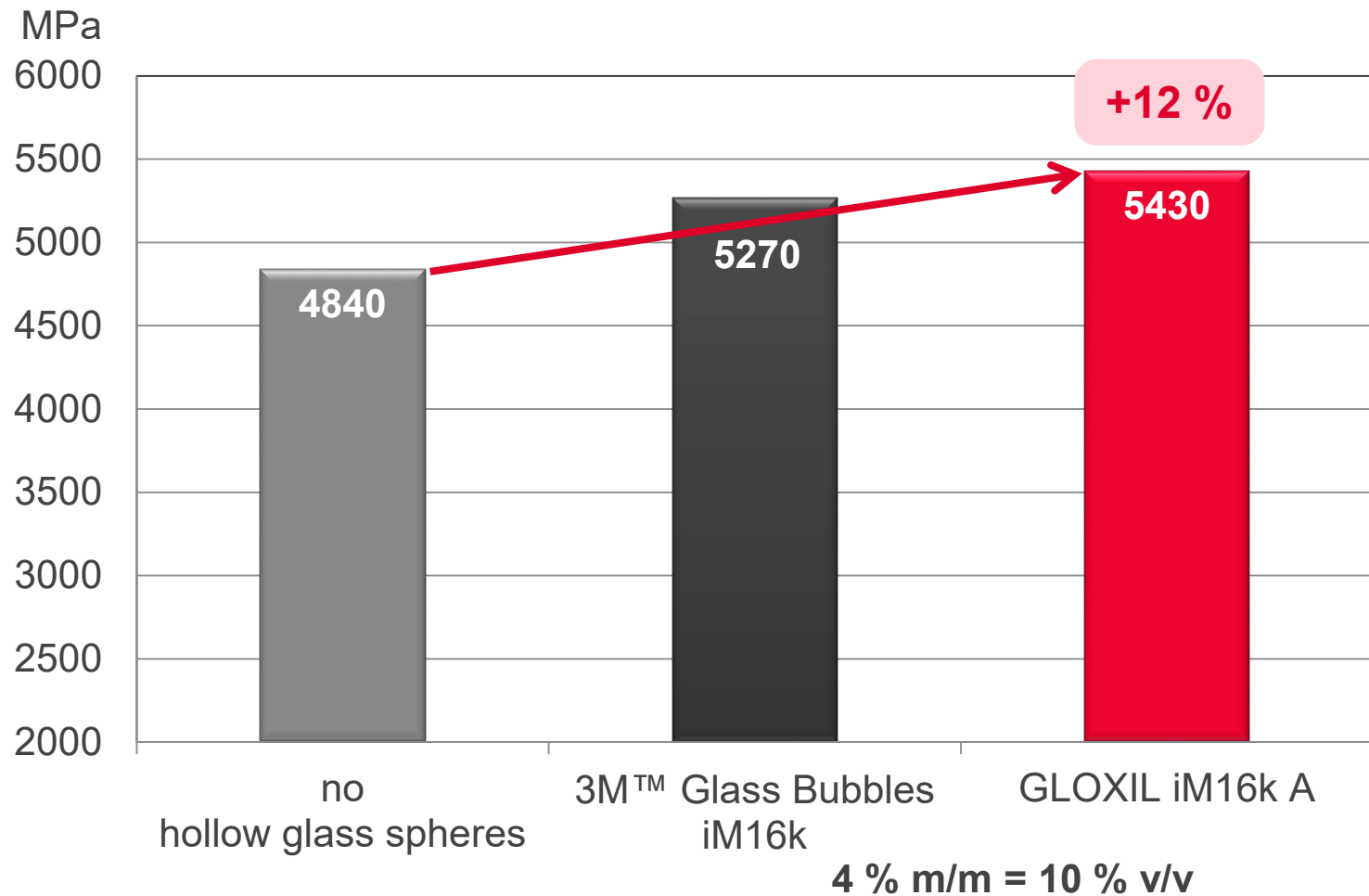
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# Tensile Strength

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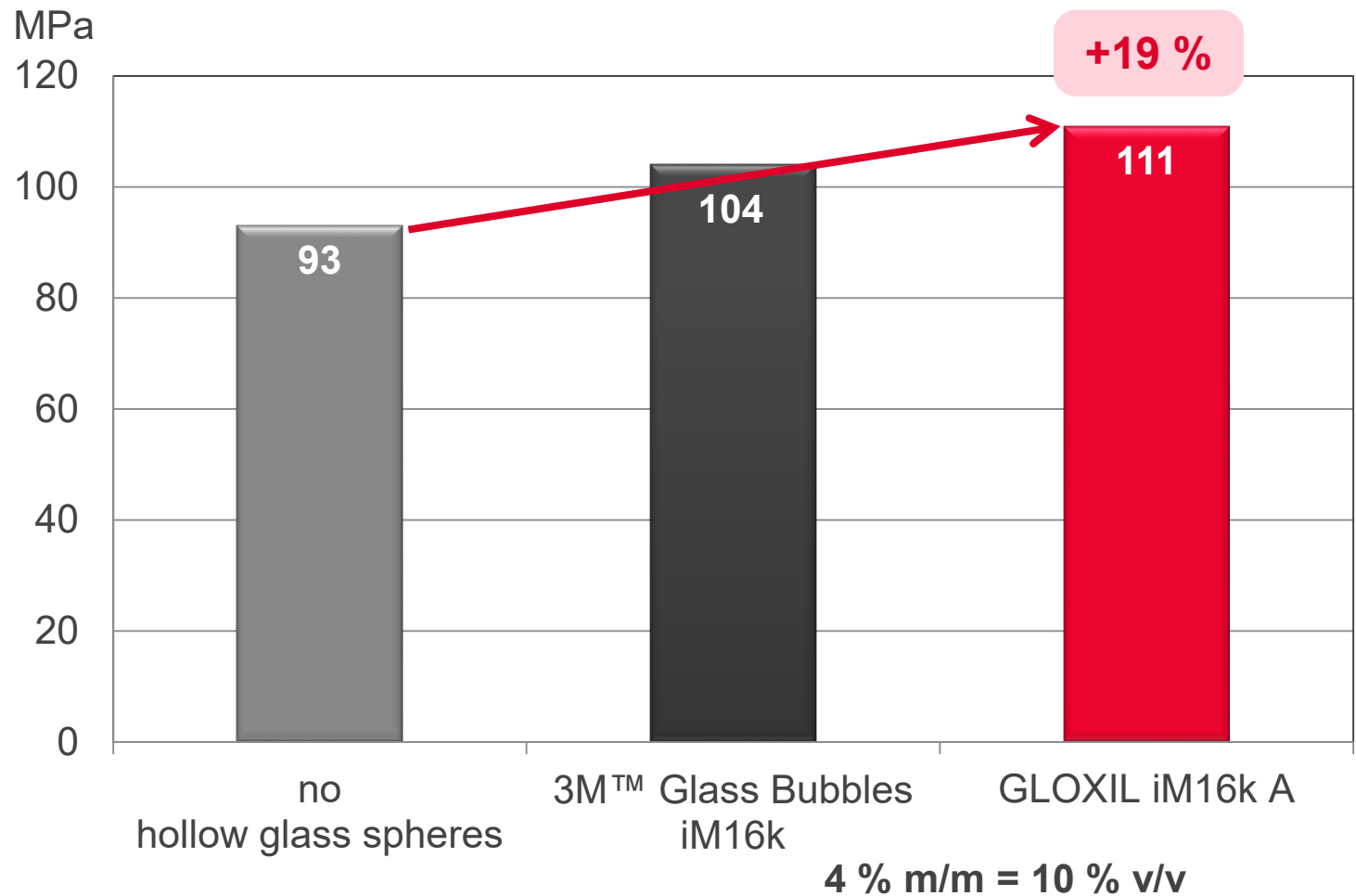
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# Tensile Strain at Break

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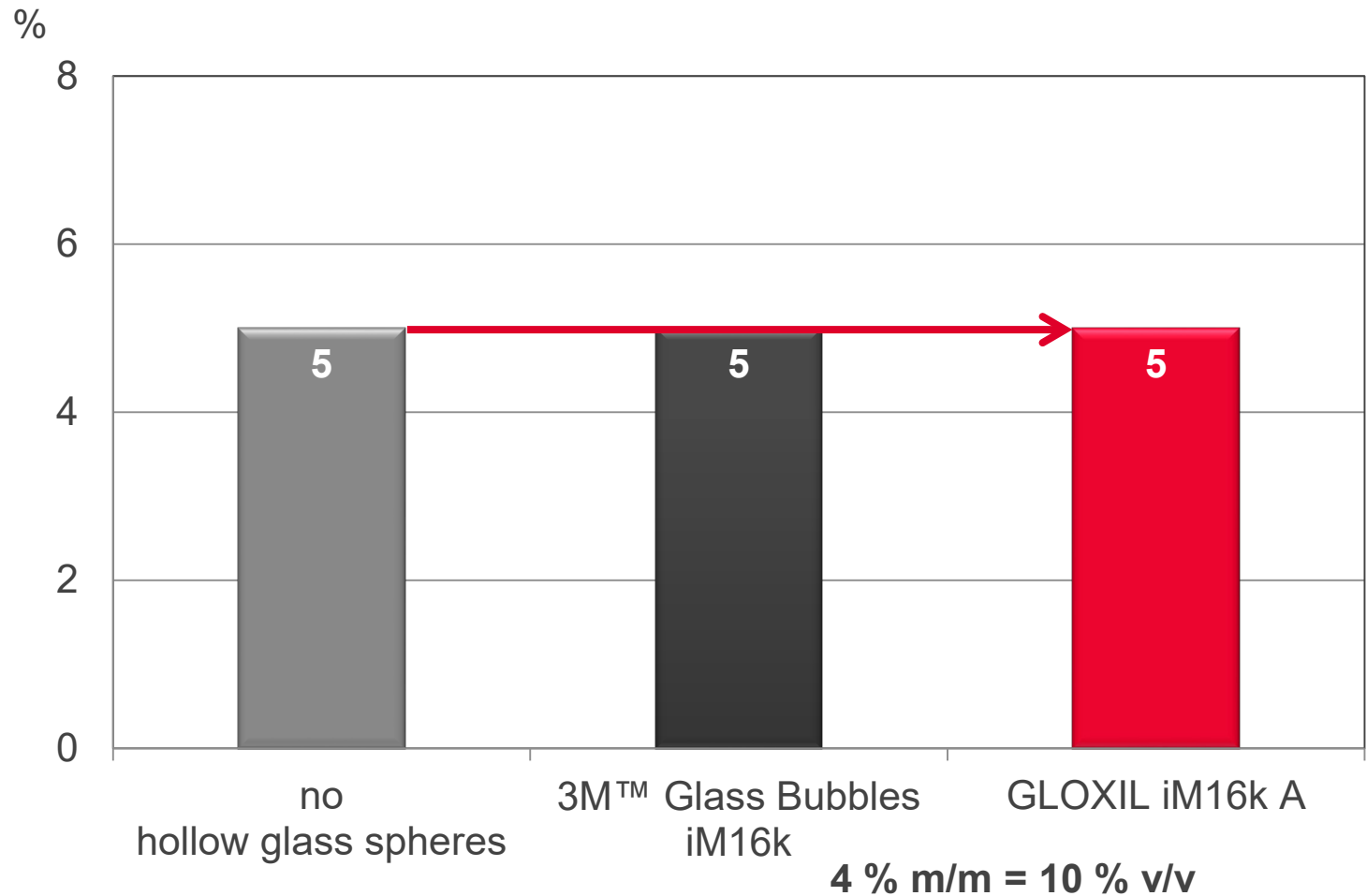
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# Flexural Strength

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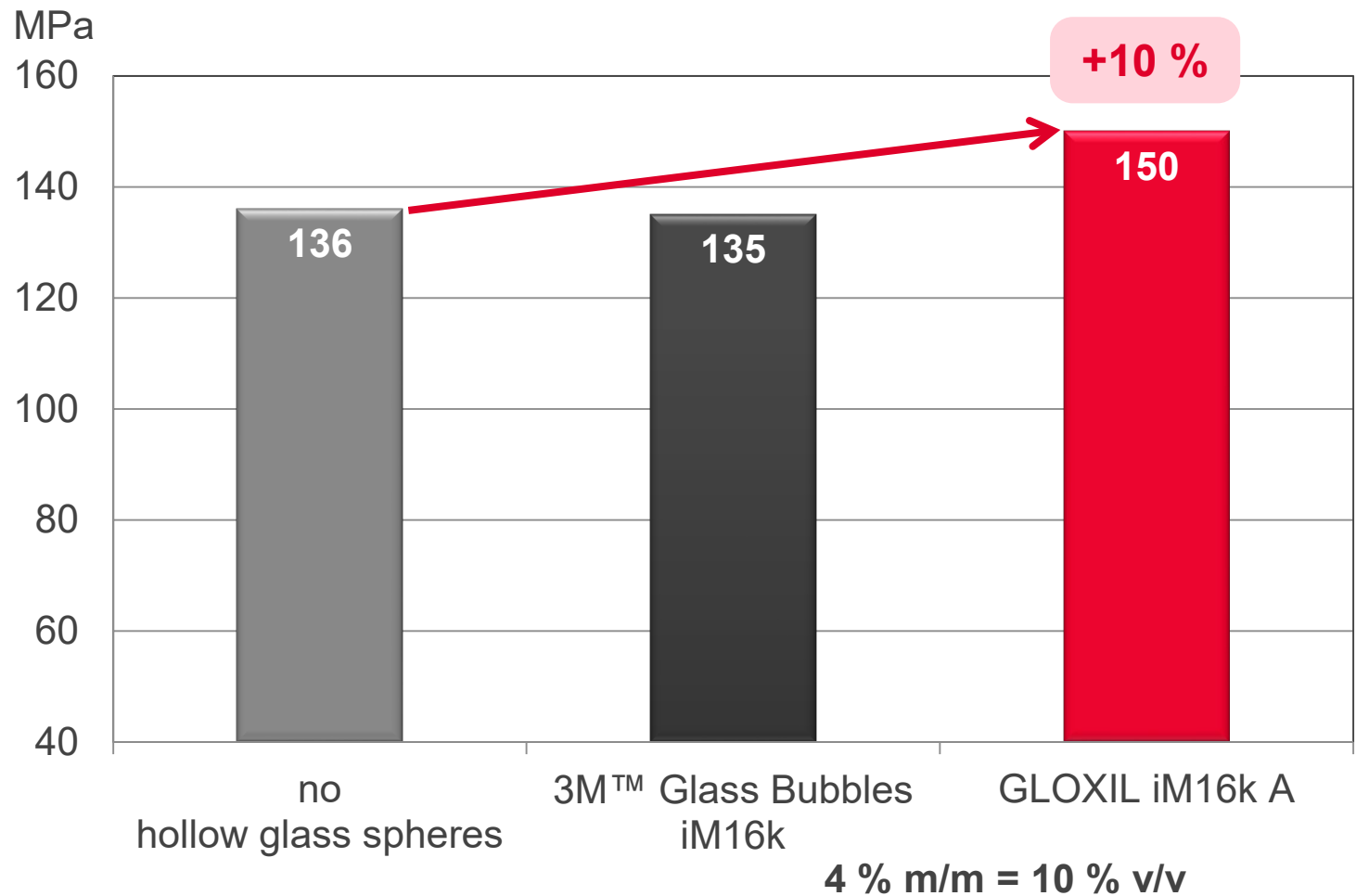
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# Impact Strength Charpy

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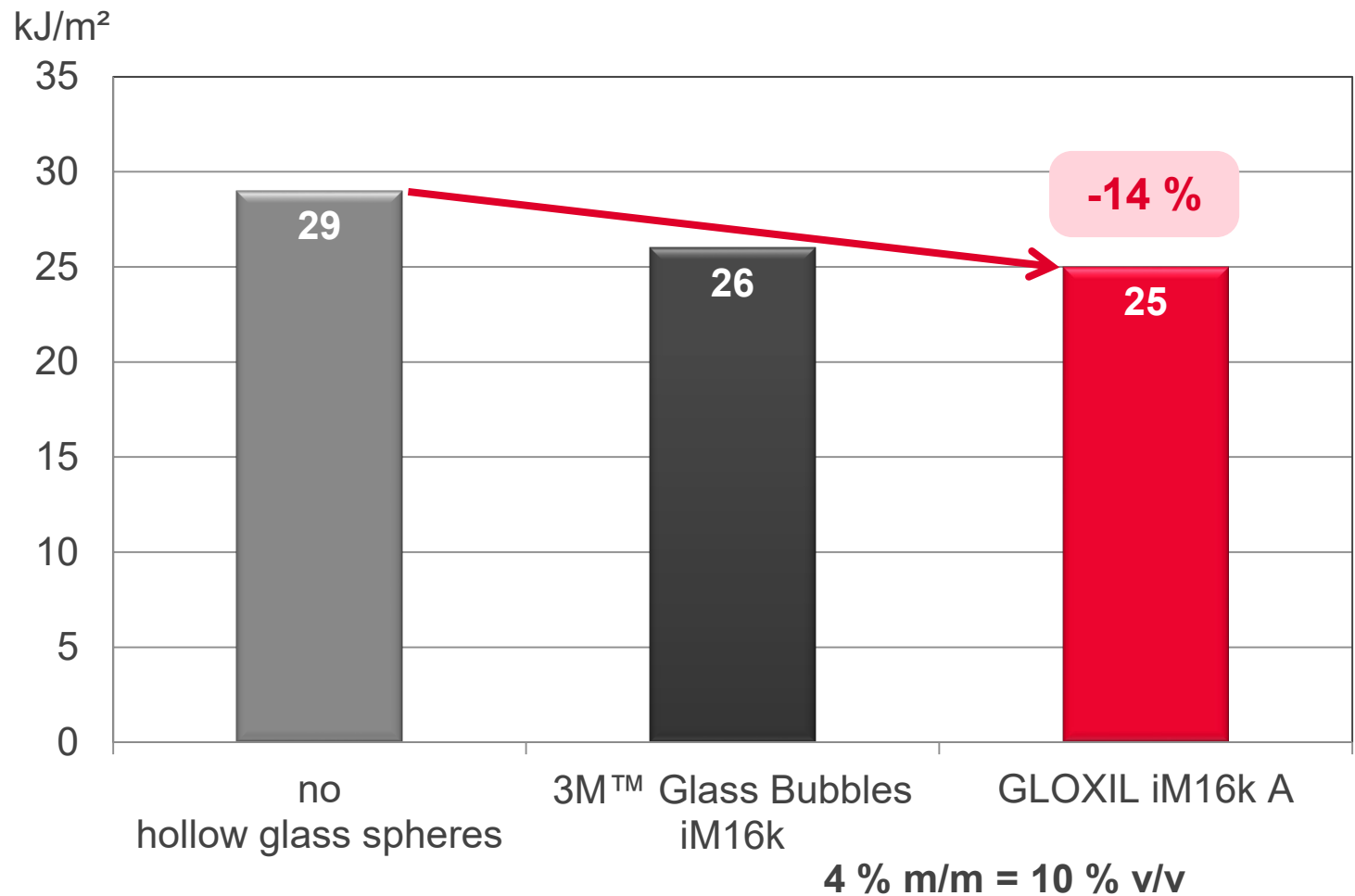
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# Notched Impact Strength Charpy

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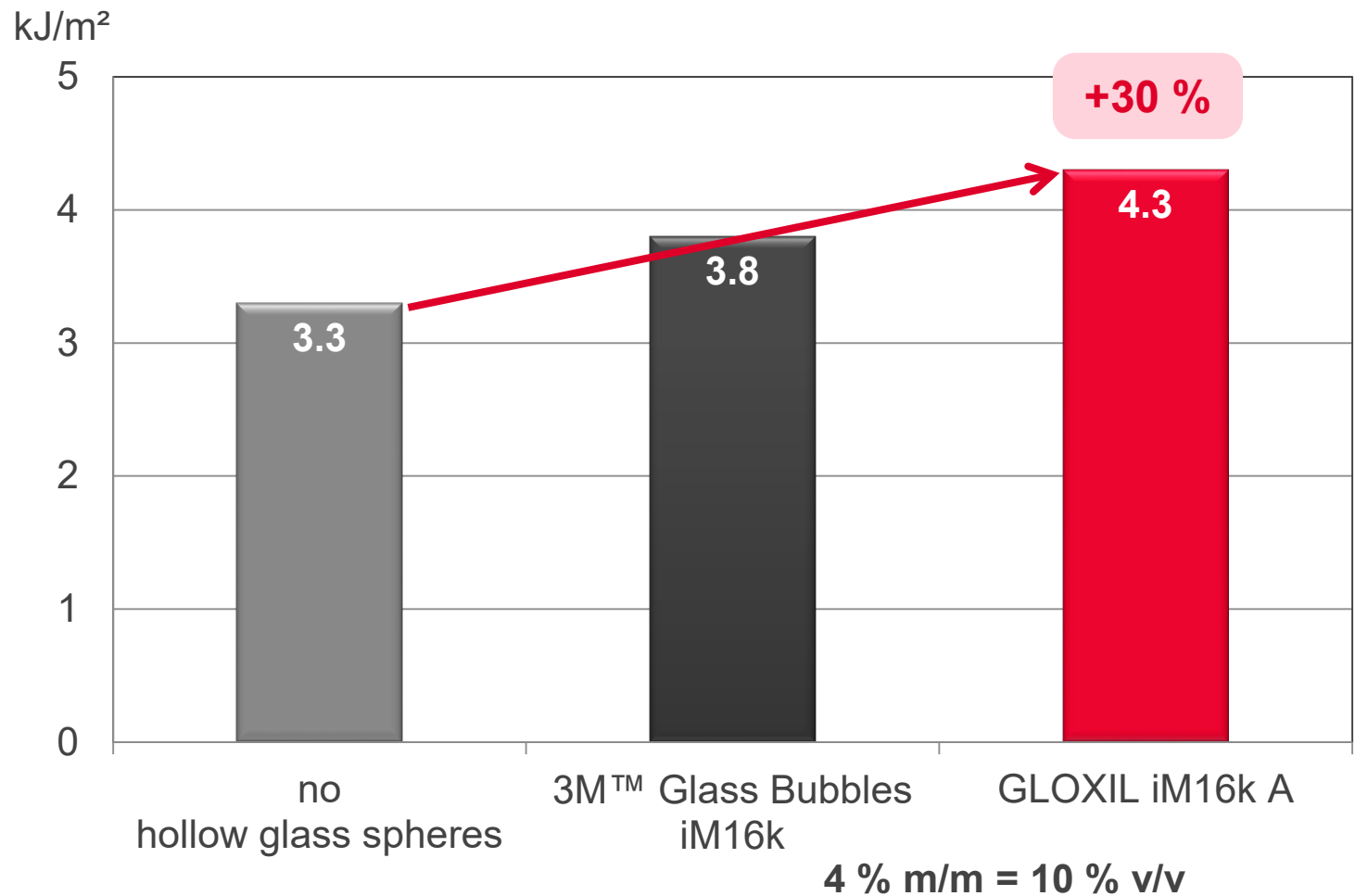
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## PA6 GF15 + Glass Bubbles

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+ Glass Bubbles

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**GLOXIL iM16k A** as an additive to **PA6 GF 15** shows in comparison to PA6 GF15 without hollow glass spheres:

- Slightly lower impact strength
- Slightly reduced density and thus weight saving potential
- + Increase in stiffness (tensile modulus and flexural modulus)
- + Increase in tensile strength with unchanged tensile strain at break
- + Increase in flexural strength
- + Increase in notched impact strength
- Objective achieved: higher stiffness without increase in density/weight and good mechanical properties
- + Expectation: improved scratch resistance





# PP Copolymer Compound Formulations

**HOFFMANN  
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Objective:

Density / weight reduction and still good mechanical properties

## PP Compound Copolymer Bormod™ BF970MO

Borealis

MFR 20 g/10 min (230 °C, 2.16 kg)

**3M™ Glass Bubbles iM16k**

0 to 25 % (m/m)

0 to 40 % (v/v)

---

**Scona TPPP 2112 GA**

PP-g-MAH, approx. 1 % MAH, Byk

---

5 % (m/m)

**GLOXIL iM16k A**

---

0 to 25 % (m/m)

0 to 40 % (v/v)

**Total**

**100**

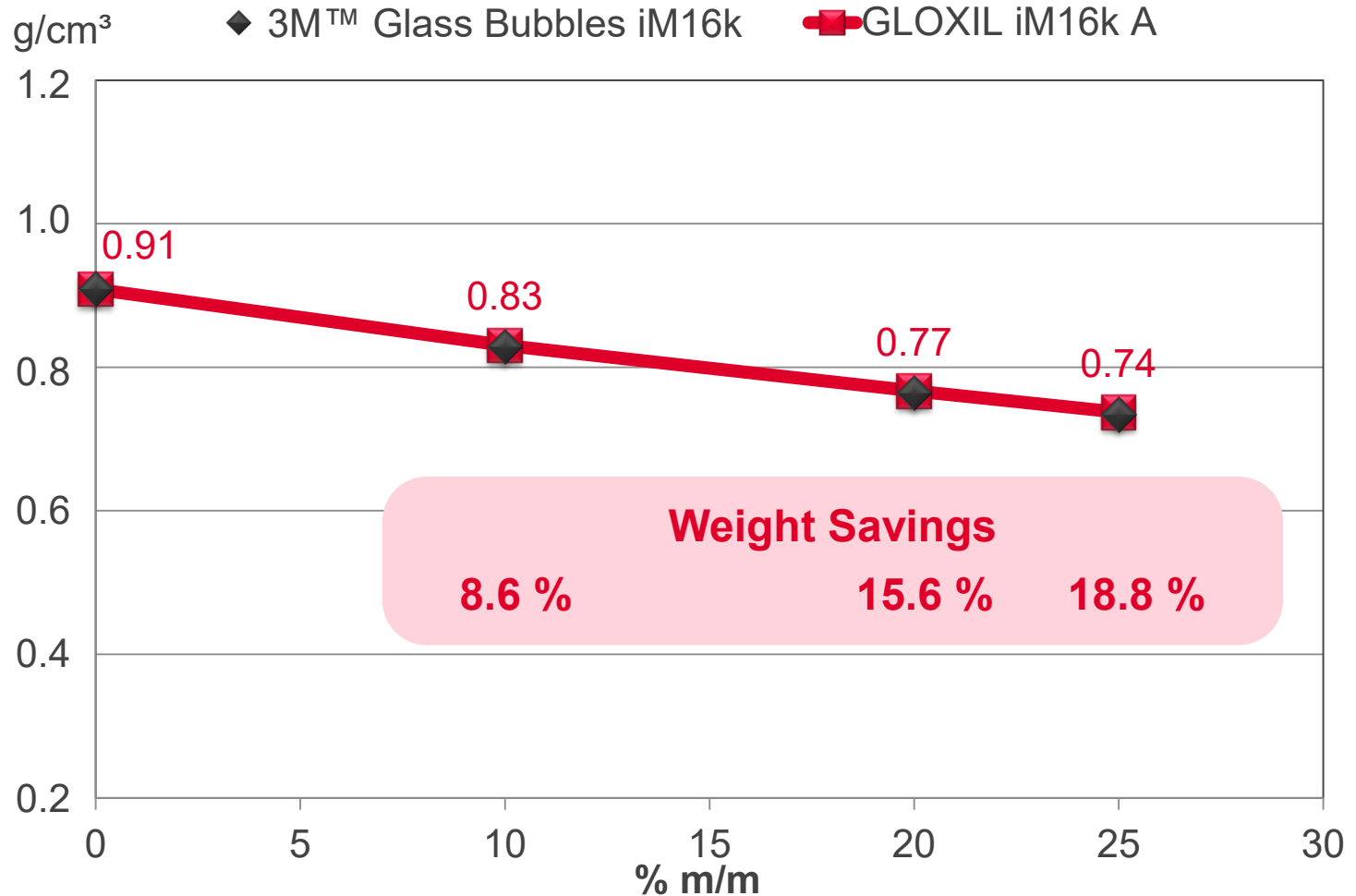
**100**

Data determined by 3M Advanced Materials Division, Special Additives Laboratory



# Density and Weight Reduction

measured; % m/m hollow glass spheres





# Tensile Modulus

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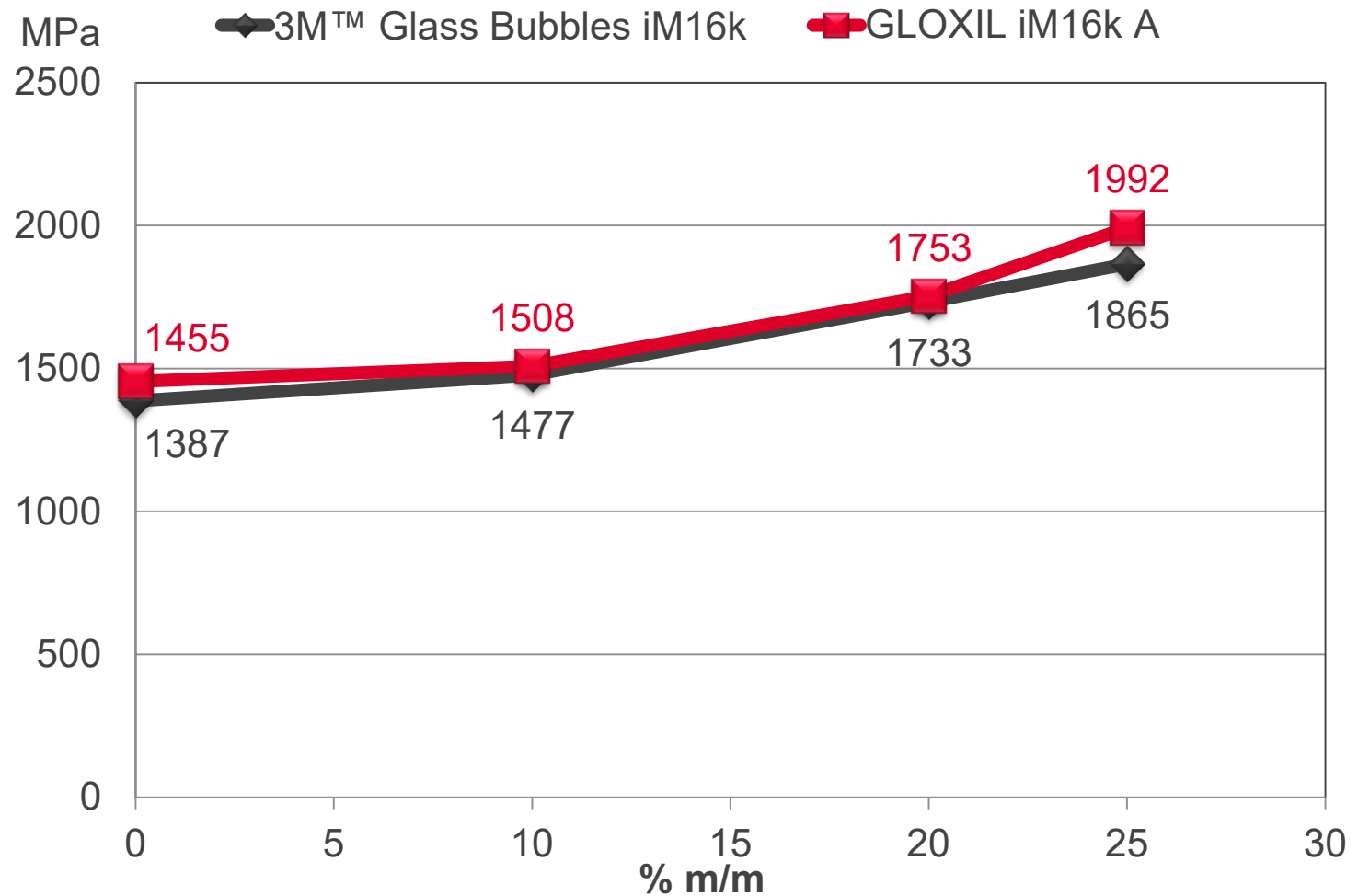
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# Flexural Modulus

**HOFFMANN**  
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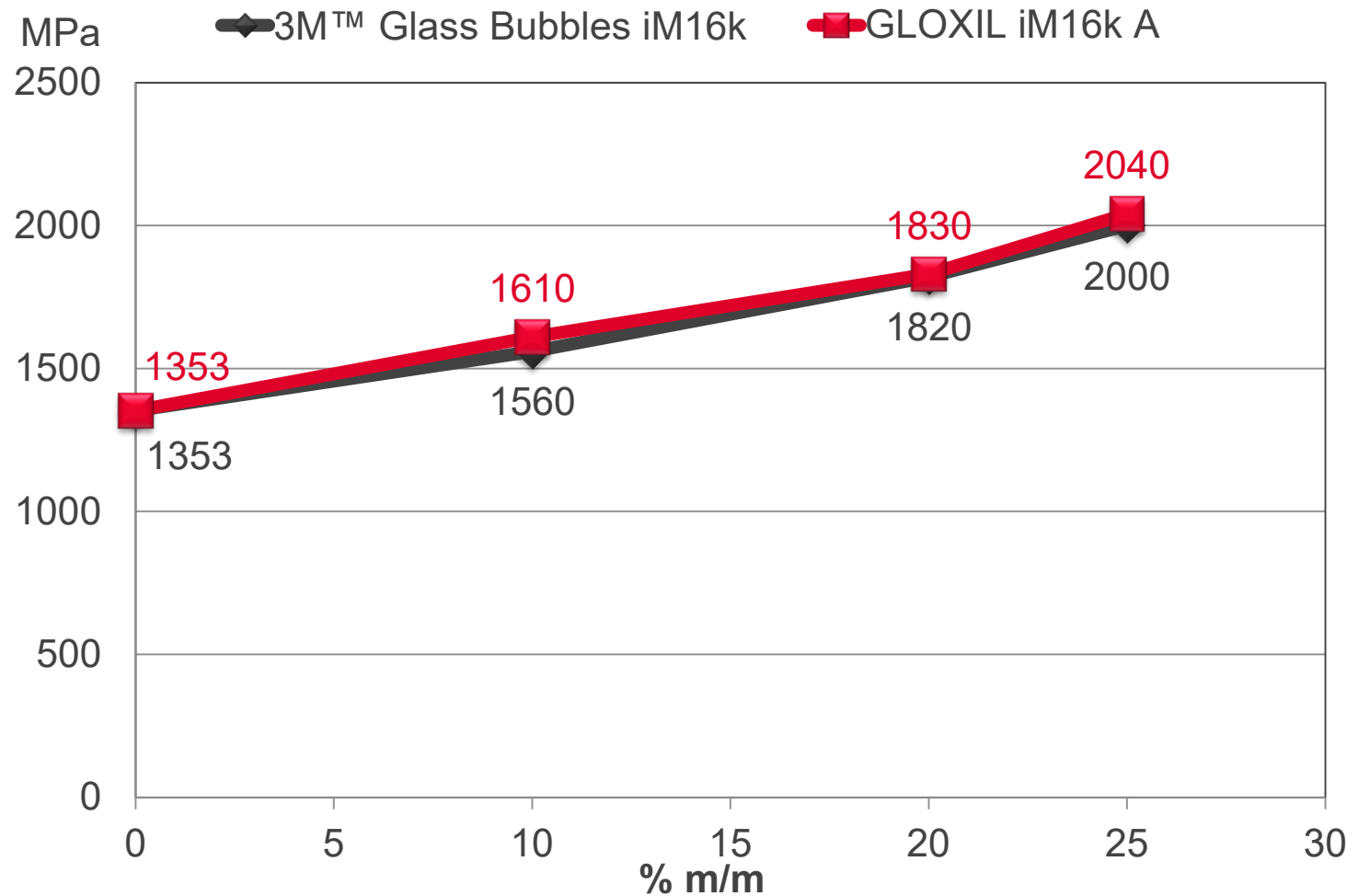
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# Tensile Strength

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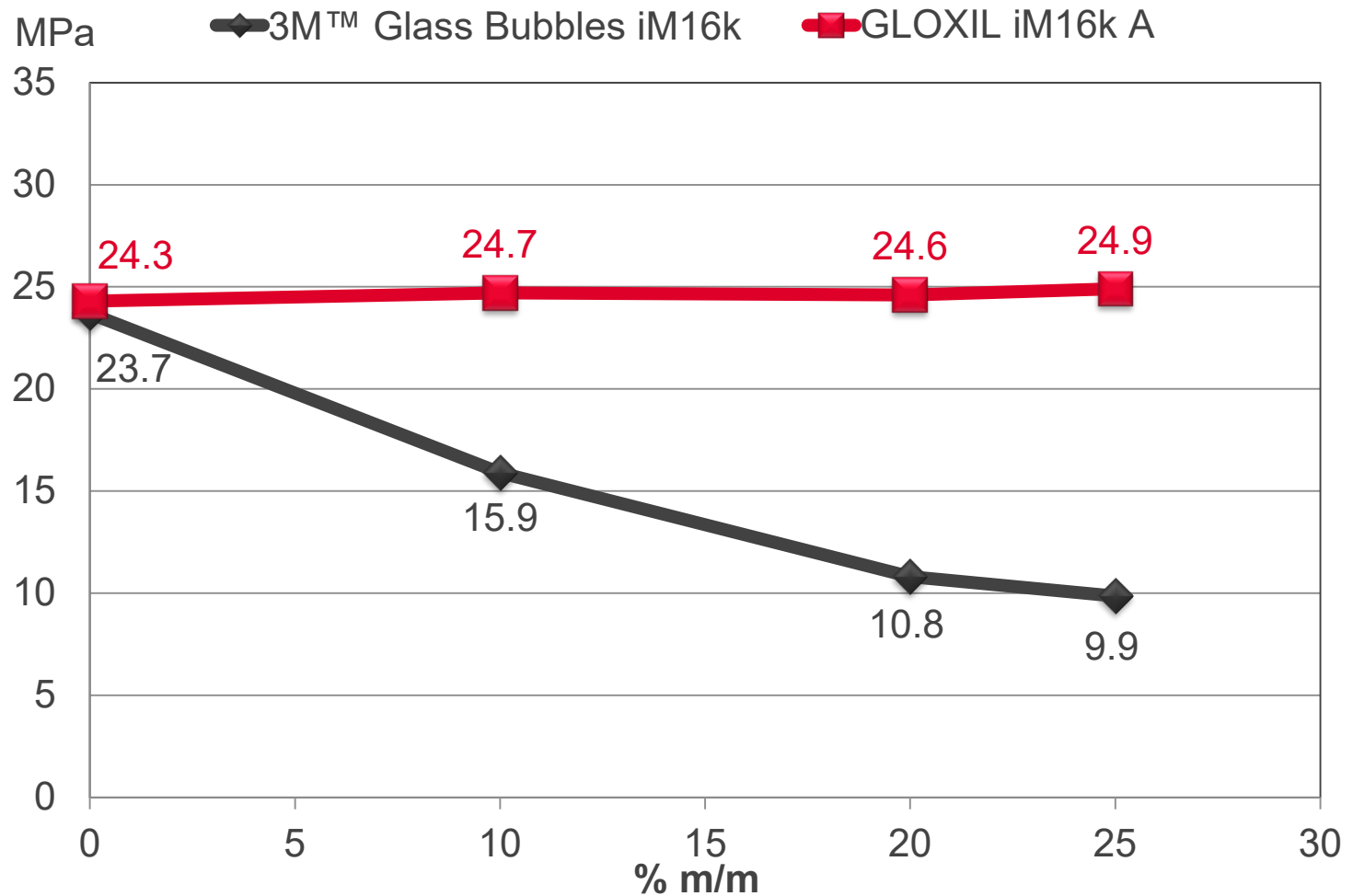
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# Flexural Strength

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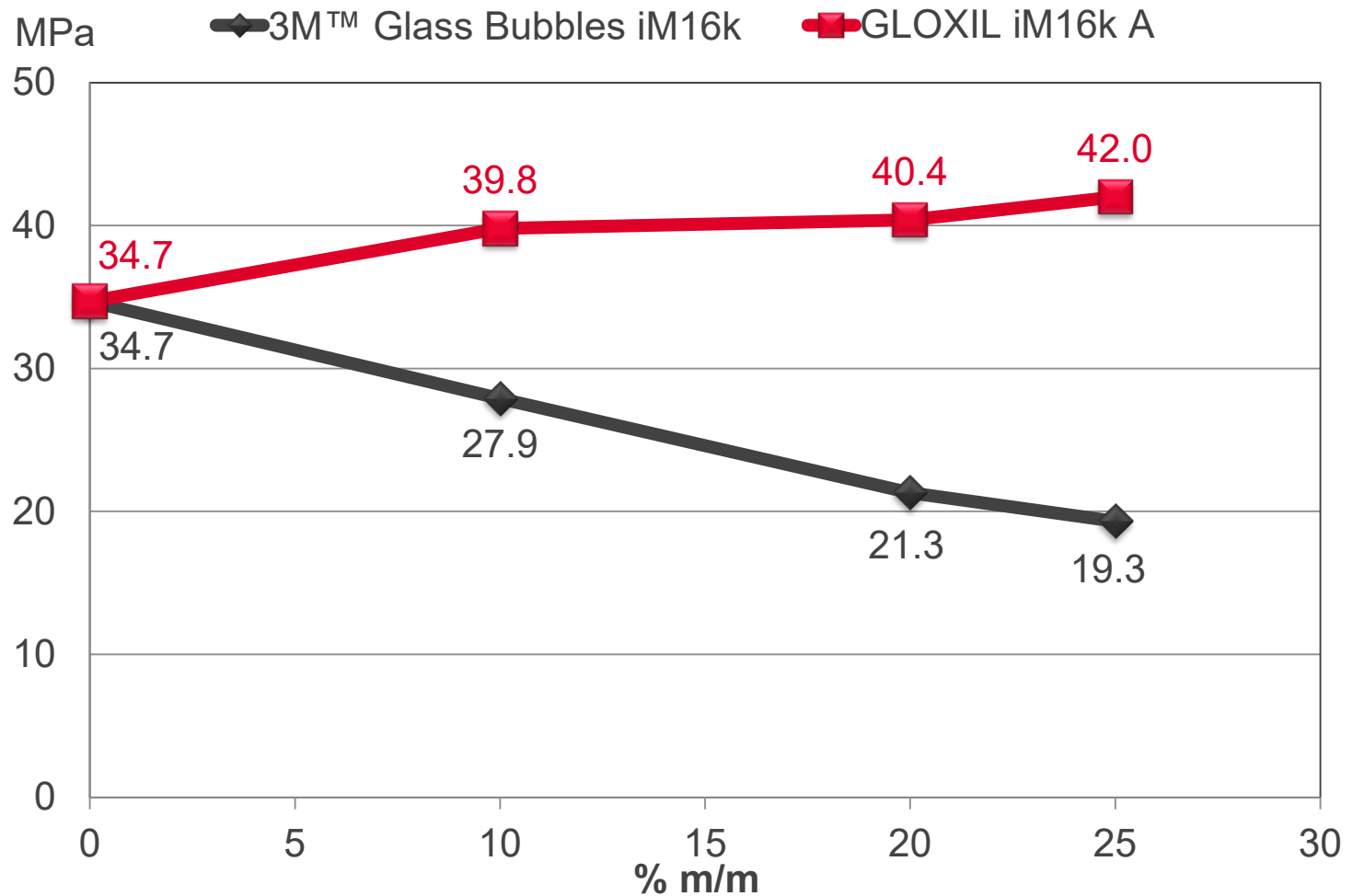
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# Impact Strength Charpy

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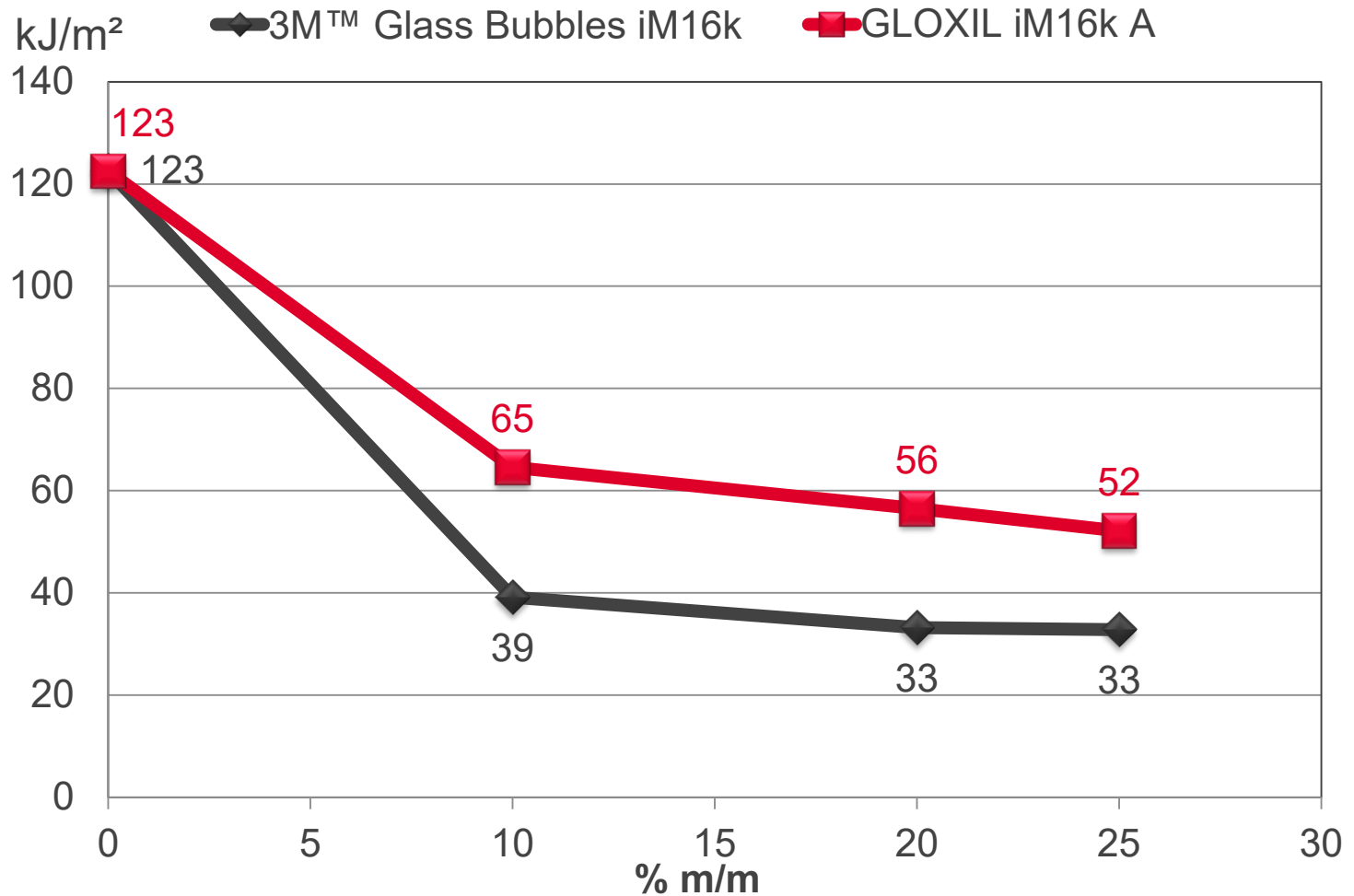
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# Notched Impact Strength Charpy

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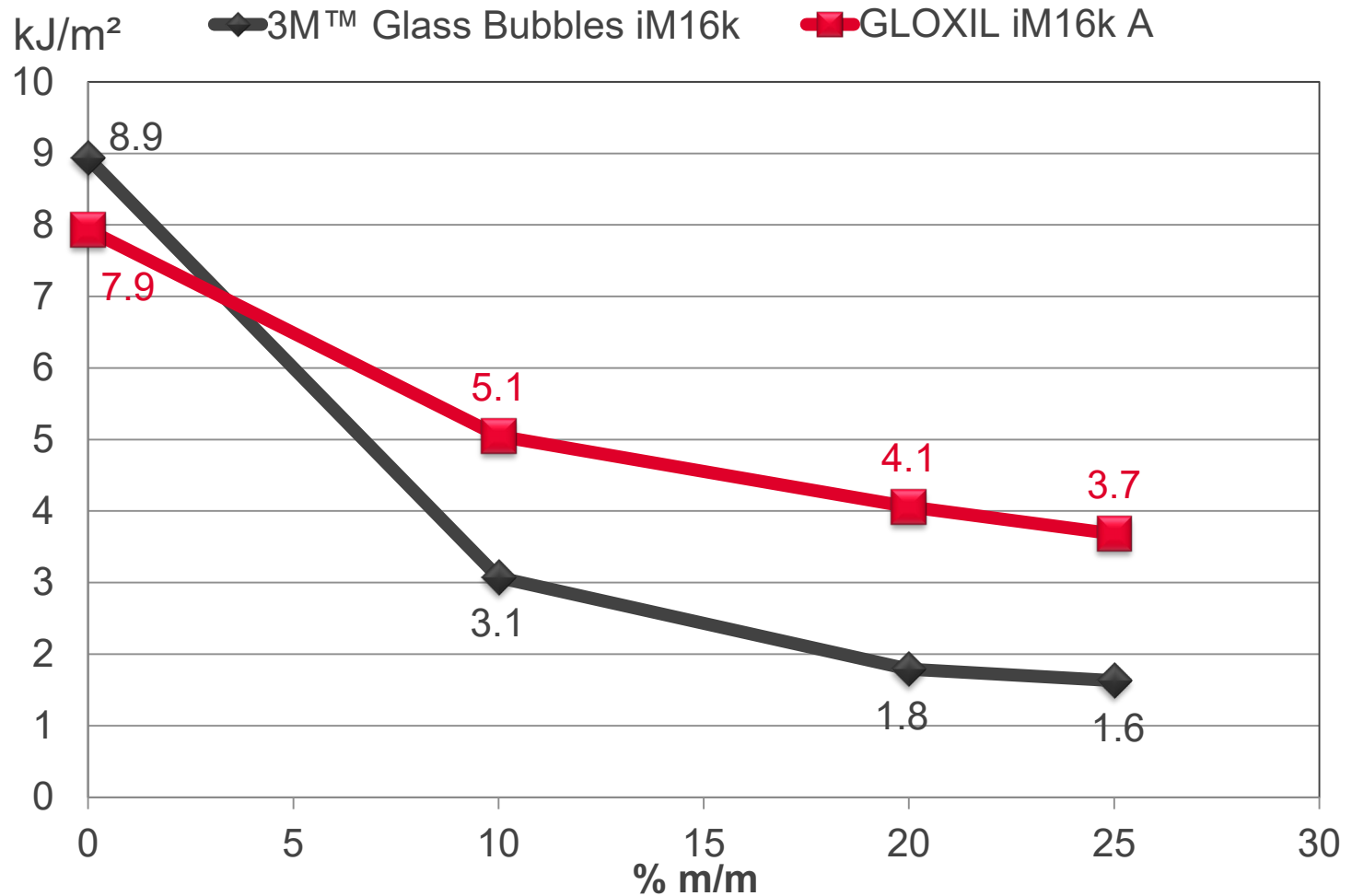
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## PP Copolymer

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**GLOXIL iM16k A** shows in comparison to the untreated hollow glass spheres:

- Same density and thus weight saving potential
- Comparable increase in stiffness (tensile and flexural modulus)
- + Significantly higher tensile strength, largely independent of the filler content at the level of the unfilled PP copolymer
- + Significantly higher flexural strength, with increasing filler content even higher than the unfilled PP copolymer
- + Higher impact strength
- + Higher notched impact strength
- **Objective achieved:**  
**density / weight reduction and good mechanical properties**
- + Expectation: improved scratch resistance and reduced visibility of scratch marks

Note on efficient dosing of PP-g-MAH:

Concentration should be in the range of 10 to 15 % (m/m), based on the GLOXIL iM16k A dosage (applies to MAH content in PP-g-MAH of approx. 1 %, for other contents the concentration should be adjusted accordingly)





# More Results PP Talc / Glass Bubbles

**HOFFMANN  
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Objective:

Density / weight reduction and still good mechanical properties

## PP Compound Copolymer Bormod™ BF970MO

Borealis

MFR 20 g/10 min (230 °C, 2.16 kg)

| Talc                                                      | 20 % (m/m)<br>7 % (v/v) | 10 % (m/m)<br>3 % (v/v) | 10 % (m/m)<br>3 % (v/v) | 10 % (m/m)<br>3 % (v/v)  | ---                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Fusabond® P 613</b><br>PP-g-MAH<br>0.5 to 1 % MAH, Dow | ---                     | 6 % (m/m)<br>6 % (v/v)  | 6 % (m/m)<br>6 % (v/v)  | 6 % (m/m)<br>6 % (v/v)   | 5 % (m/m)<br>4 % (v/v)   |
| <b>3M™ Glass<br/>Bubbles iM16k</b>                        | ---                     | 5 % (m/m)<br>10 % (v/v) | ---                     | ---                      | ---                      |
| <b>GLOXIL iM16k A</b>                                     | ---                     | ---                     | 5 % (m/m)<br>10 % (v/v) | 5 % (m/m)<br>10 % (v/v)  | 10 % (m/m)<br>18 % (v/v) |
| <b>Infuse™ 9000</b><br>Olefin Block Copolymer             | ---                     | ---                     | ---                     | 10 % (m/m)<br>10 % (v/v) | ---                      |
| <b>Total</b>                                              | <b>100</b>              | <b>100</b>              | <b>100</b>              | <b>100</b>               | <b>100</b>               |

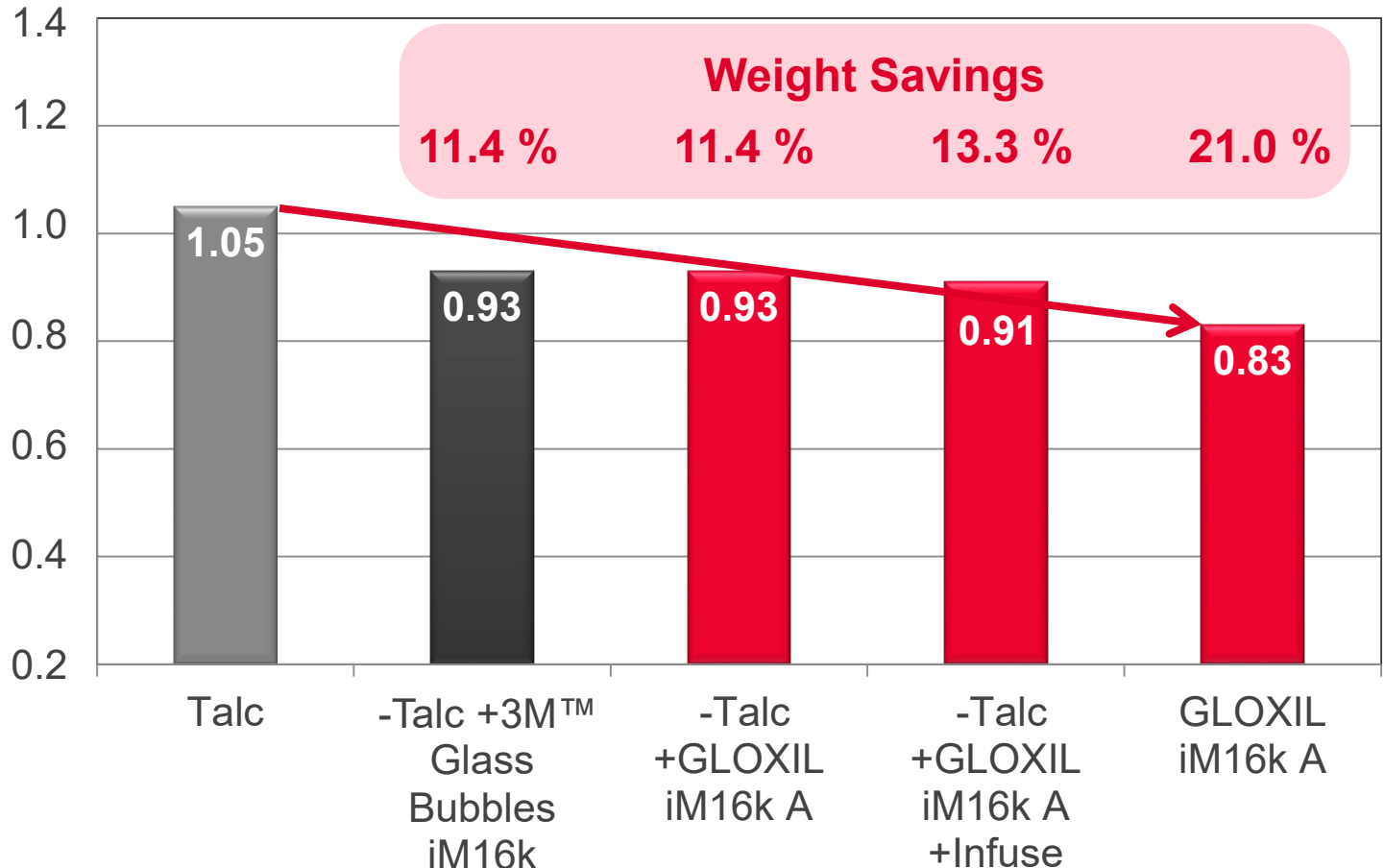
Data determined by 3M Advanced Materials Division, Special Additives Laboratory



# Density and Weight Reduction

measured

g/cm<sup>3</sup>





# Tensile Modulus

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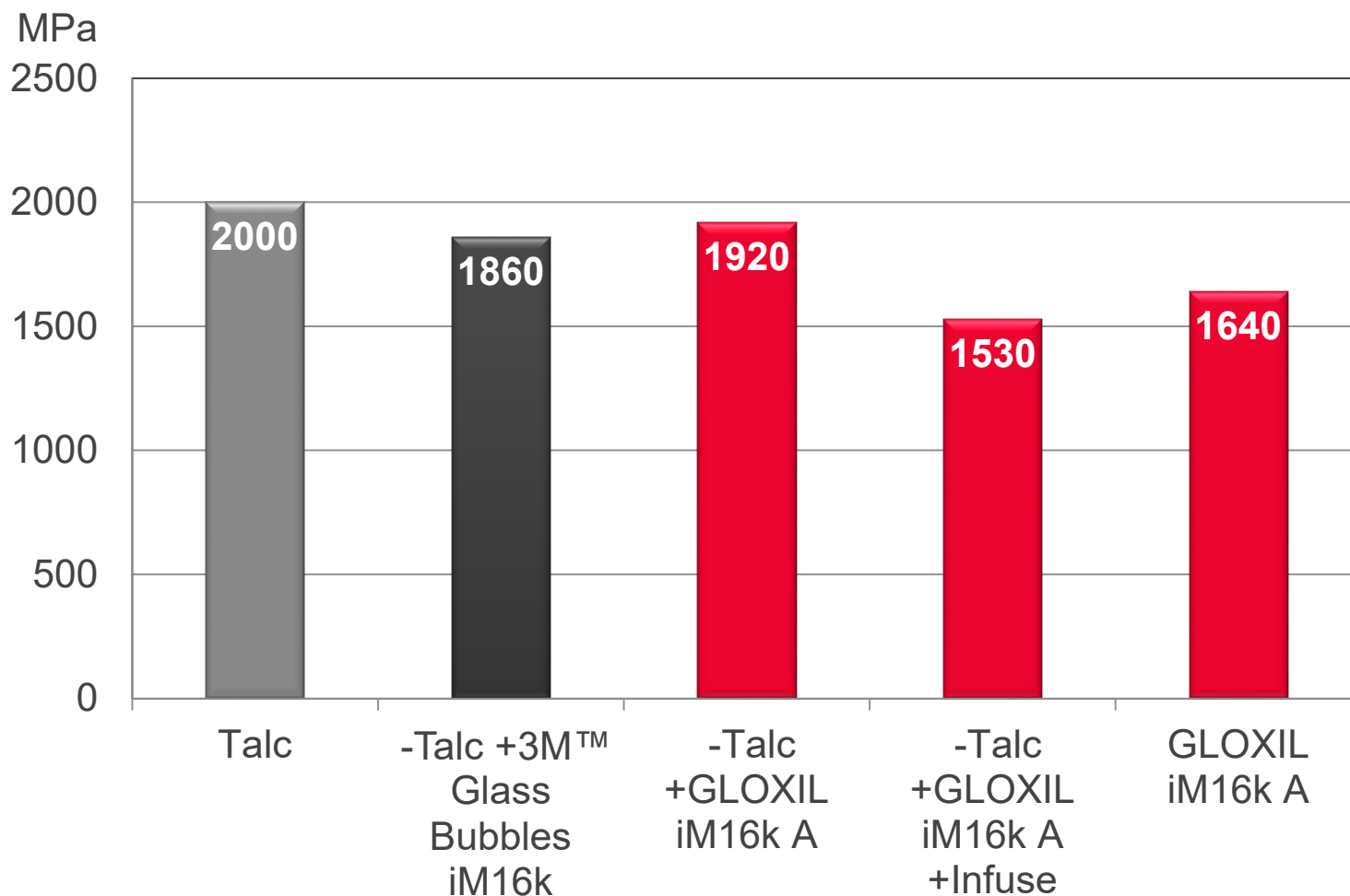
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# Yield Stress

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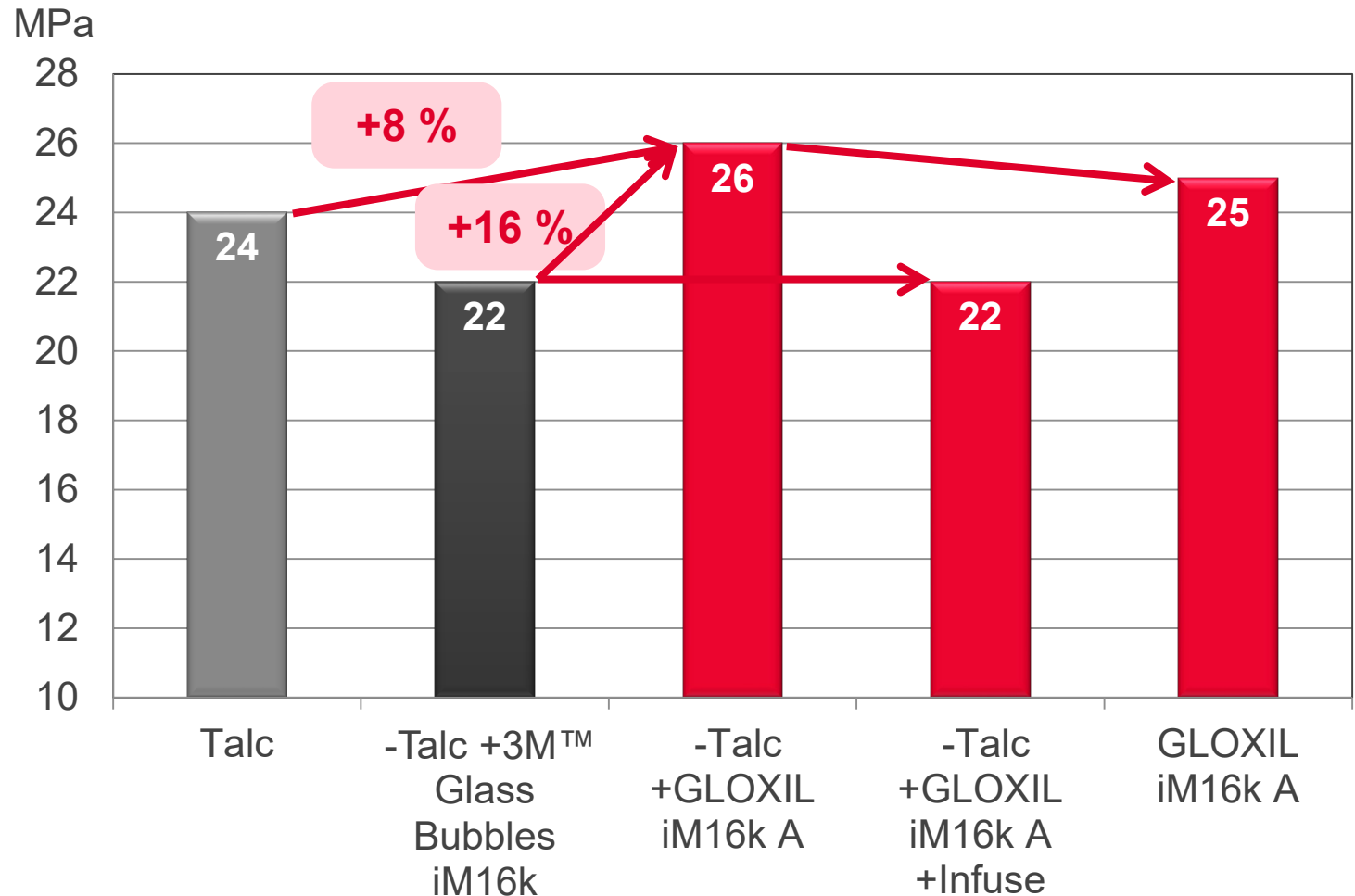
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# Impact Strength Charpy

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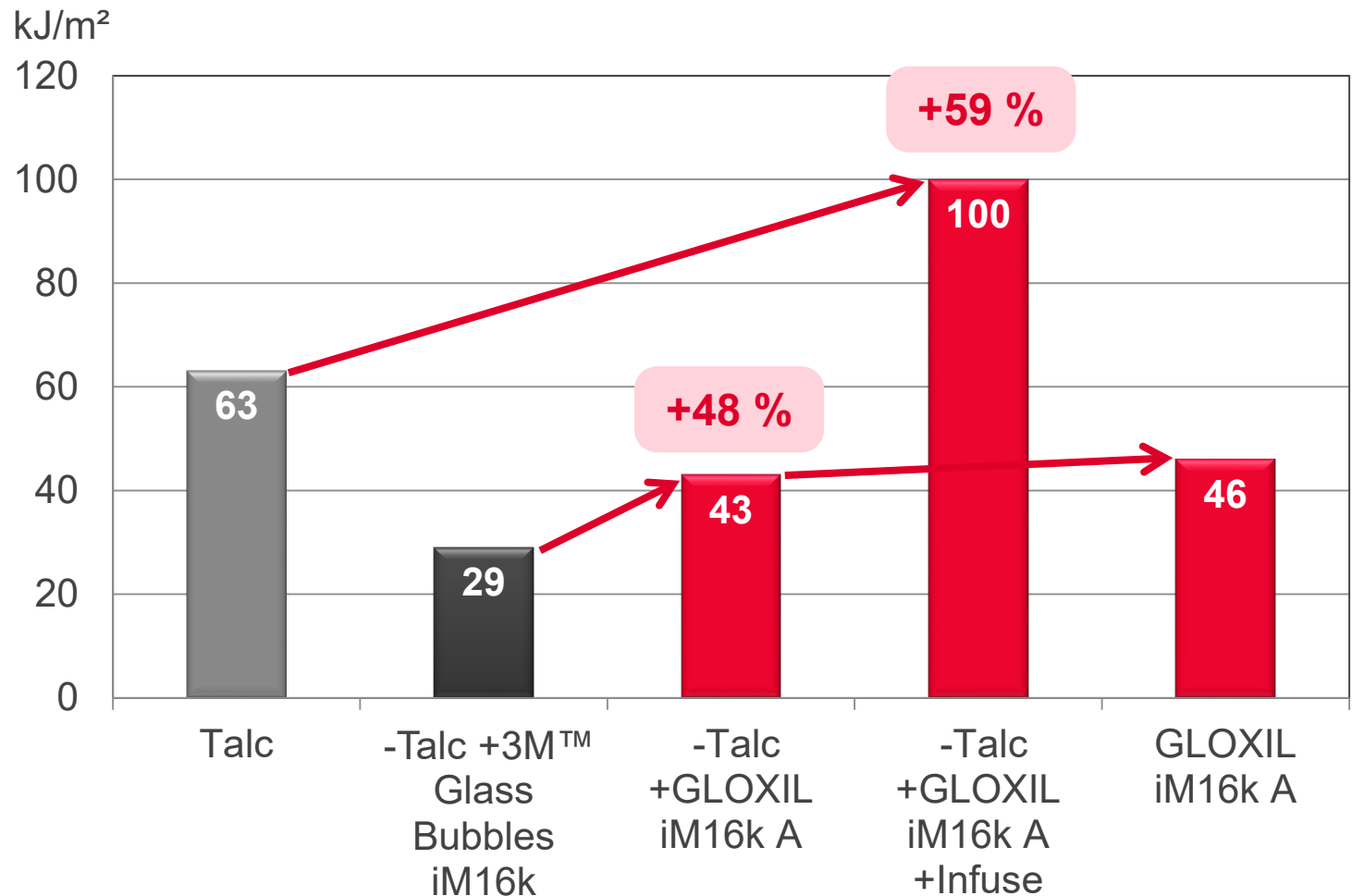
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# Notched Impact Strength Charpy

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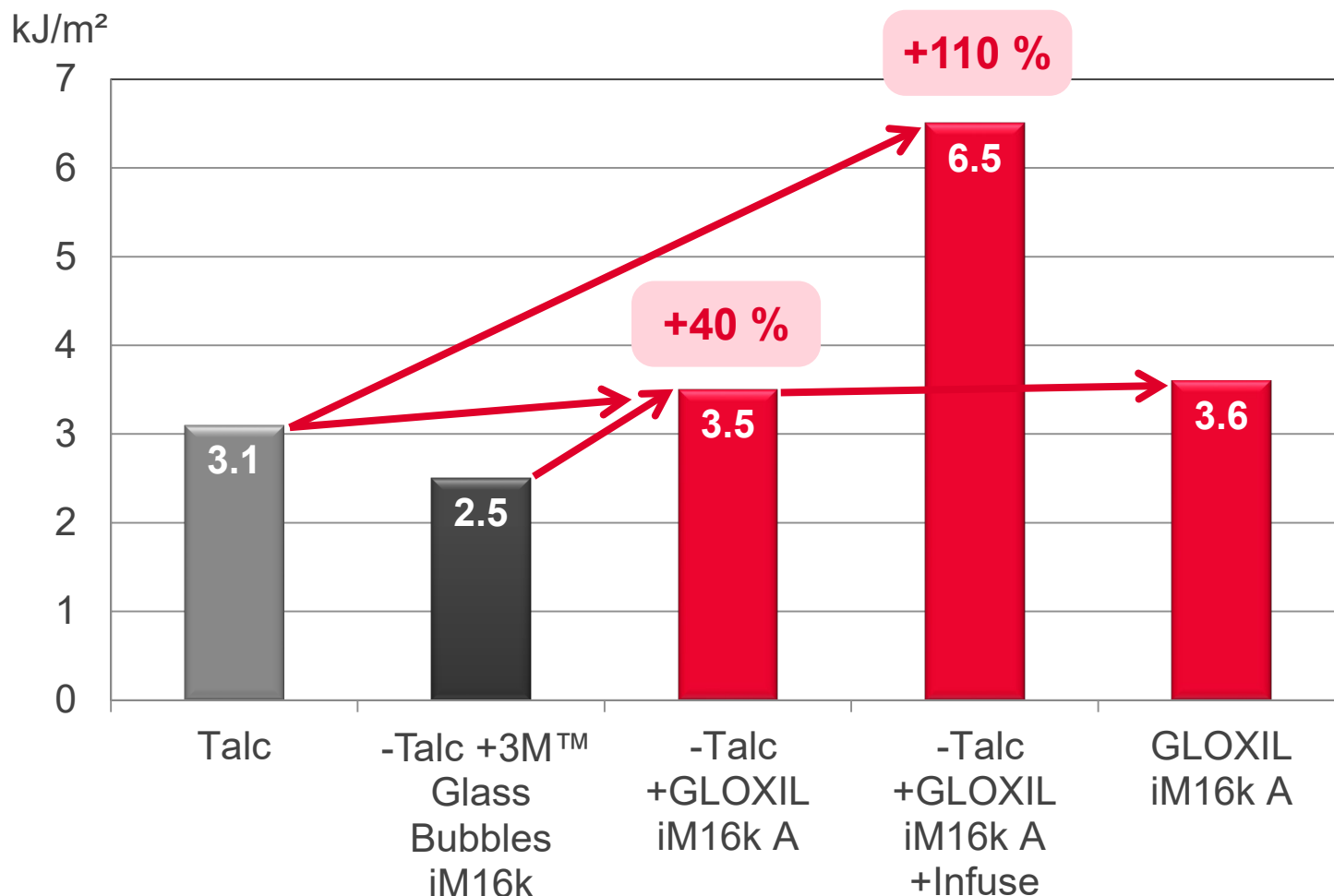
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# Summary PP Copolymer Talc / Glass Bubbles

**HOFFMANN**  
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**GLOXIL iM16k A** shows as partial and full replacement of talc compared to PP Copo T20 without hollow glass spheres:

- Full replacement: slightly lower stiffness
- Partial replacement: comparable stiffness
- + Reduced density / weight saving potential up to 21 %
- + Increase in yield stress (and thus potential for introduction of impact modifier)
- + Hardly any loss of yield stress despite impact modifier
- + Comparable yield stress at full replacement
- + Increase in impact strength, especially with addition of impact modifier
- + Increase in notched impact strength, especially with addition of impact modifier
- + Comparable notched impact strength at full replacement
- **Objective achieved:**  
**density / weight reduction and good mechanical properties**
- + Expectation: improved scratch resistance





## Summary Overall

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**GLOXIL iM16k A** shows in comparison to the untreated hollow glass spheres:

- Same density and thus weight saving potential
- Comparable increase in stiffness (tensile and flexural modulus)
- + Significantly higher yield stress or tensile strength, largely independent of the filler content at the level of the unfilled polymer
- + Significantly higher flexural strength, with increasing filler content in some cases even higher than the unfilled polymer
- + Higher impact strength
- + Higher notched impact strength
- + Various possibilities for compound modification with e.g. impact modifiers without loss of other properties
- + Expectation: improved scratch resistance



## We supply material for good ideas!

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