

ECCOSORB AN-74/CERSEAL used in Northrop Grumman's E-2C Hawkeye antennas

A military subcontractor doing work for the US Navy has recently contacted Emerson & Cuming Microwave Products to obtain new microwave absorptive parts for an upgrade to several E-2C Hawkeye Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft. During this retrofit several antennas are to be upgraded and new ones integrated into new aircraft, each of which requires several parts made of microwave absorptive foam.

While operating at a classified frequency these antennas require absorber to maintain peak performance by reducing interference from nearby objects, such as metal structures and other electronics. Required to operate in all kinds of weather with varying temperatures and humidity conditions brought on by constant changes in altitude, a weatherproofed material was selected.

ECCOSORB[®] AN-74/CERSEAL, a multi-layer gradient absorber specifically designed to minimize reflections was chosen. From this base material multidimensional parts configured from engineered drawings were cut out with water-jet technology and then encapsulated with a protective coating to seal it from the elements.

