Press release

TOPAS Advanced Polymers presents a new flexible TOPAS® grade for medical devices, specialty pharmaceutical packaging and medical tubing

First-ever cyclic olefin copolymer (COC) elastomer commercialized

Frankfurt, Germany – October 7, 2010 – **TOPAS Advanced Polymers introduces the first commercially available cyclic olefin copolymer (COC) elastomer. The new COC grade is being marketed under the brand name of the TOPAS® product family.**

These highly transparent TOPAS® elastomers expand the company's product offering effective immediately. They represent an alternative to conventional thermoplastic elastomers (TPEs) for a broad range of applications such as medical devices, specialty pharmaceutical packaging and medical tubing.

Initial commercial-scale production runs have been successfully completed. The new TOPAS® elastomers are comparable to other TPEs in terms of strength and stiffness. With a Shore A hardness of 89, their tensile modulus measures 45 MPa and elongation at break exceeds 450%. One of the important properties of the material is its ability to maintain its ductility even at temperatures below -80°C. In addition, the material's low dielectric loss factor is comparable to

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some fluoroelastomers, providing strong electrical insulation performance.

The new TOPAS® elastomer meets USP Class VI requirements for use in medical devices while U.S. FDA food-contact approval is pending. Like standard COC grades, these new elastomer grades are also high-purity resins with low leachables and extractables, making them highly suitable for PVC replacement in medical tubing, IV bags, and flow meters. A recent successful trial in medical tubing demonstrated the material's strong kink-resistant qualities. Further testing also shows that the new TOPAS® elastomer withstands both gamma and e-beam sterilization. It can be injection molded or extruded using conventional processing equipment and requires no pre-drying.

Further information

About TOPAS Advanced Polymers

TOPAS Advanced Polymers, a joint venture between the Japanese companies Daicel Chemical Industries Ltd. and Polyplastics Co., Ltd., was established in January 2006. The company is located in Frankfurt, Germany and Florence, Kentucky, USA and has about 100 employees working in R&D, Marketing & Sales, Production and Administration. TOPAS Advanced Polymers markets COCs in Europe and the Americas, while Polyplastics Co., Ltd. covers Asia. For more information, please visit the company's website at: www.topas.com.