News Release

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POLYURETHANES SOLVING MULTIPLE AUTOMOTIVE CHALLENGES RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL AND PERFORMANCE ISSUES

Automotive Innovations Take Center Stage at Polyurethanes 2009 Technical Conference

National Harbor, MD (October 7, 2009) – "The global automotive industry is facing many tough new standards, market conditions and cost pressures, and polyurethanes appear to be the solution to many of these challenges," said Steffen Bauer of KraussMaffei during the Advances in Automotive Processing Technologies technical session here this morning. "Flexible production and improved manufacturing processes are critical to expanding the integration of polyurethane and other plastics into automotive applications." Bauer presented an overview of advanced processing options for integrating polyurethanes into more exterior, interior and under-the-hood automotive applications, while KraussMaffei colleague Jerry Phillips discussed a number of innovative post-processing technologies. This session also included two papers, by Cannon USA and DESMA, describing novel polyurethanes applications for insulating car passenger compartments from noise originating from the engine and from tire/road friction.

"In a difficult year for the automotive industry, it was no surprise to see so many papers focusing on new applications and, of course, green innovations," said Neeva-Gayle Candelori, director of Center for the Polyurethanes Industry (CPI), sponsor of the Conference.

This afternoon the Automotive Innovations session focused on polyurethane chemistry and materials science. Nippon Polyurethane opened the session with a paper on achieving significant reductions in interior surface material weight while improving smoothness, moldability and durability using spherical thermoplastic polyurethane powder. Woodbridge Foam and BASF presented research results on the effects of humidity on polyurethane foam, followed by a Dow Chemical presentation on new low-VOC polyurethane foam technology for helping to improve interior car air quality. BASF also gave an overview of polyurethane applications for improving the sealing characteristics in panel filters, keeping out airborne particulates.

Both Renewable Content sessions presented a wide range of advances relating to improved performance and reduced carbon footprints in automotive seating applications. Yesterday's Processing Innovations included several papers announcing time and performance improvements to various mixhead systems, and a paper by Graco explaining the many advantages of processing rigid, flexible and integral skin foams using their variable ratio pour foam proportioners.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Photos from Polyurethanes 2009 Technical Conference are available for use. Please contact Allison Elliott at 212-697-2600.

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The American Chemistry Council (ACC) represents the leading companies engaged in the business of chemistry. ACC members apply the science of chemistry to make innovative products and services that make people's lives better, healthier and safer. ACC is committed to improved environmental, health and safety performance through Responsible Care®, common sense advocacy designed to address major public policy issues, and health and environmental research and product testing. The business of chemistry is a $689 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation's economy. It is one of the nation's largest exporters, accounting for ten cents out of every dollar in U.S. exports. Chemistry companies are among the largest investors in research and development. Safety and security have always been primary concerns of ACC members, and they have intensified their efforts, working closely with government agencies to improve security and to defend against any threat to the nation's critical infrastructure.

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The Center for the Polyurethanes Industry (CPI) of the American Chemistry Council promotes the sustainable growth of the polyurethane industry, by identifying and managing issues that could impact the industry, in cooperation with user groups. Its members include the nation's leading producers and distributors of chemicals and equipment used to make polyurethane and manufacture polyurethane products. CPI provides a single, strong and credible voice to advocate on behalf of the interests of the U.S. polyurethanes industry. The business of polyurethanes is a $56.1 billion enterprise, supports about 220,000 jobs and a key element of the nation's economy.