

For Immediate Release

Contact: Karyn Grace (281.227.5451) or Rick Hagar (281.227.5432)

Total Petrochemicals USA, Inc. introduces enhanced flow high heat crystal polystyrene resin with break-through resin technology

HOUSTON, Texas (December 5, 2006) – Total Petrochemicals USA, Inc. introduces a new resin, high heat crystal polystyrene Total Petrochemicals Polystyrene CX5229, that enhances flow and is designed to satisfy demanding requirements in foam sheet extrusion, oriented polystyrene and blown film applications by providing improved flow characteristics without sacrificing the melt strength critical for these processes.

“CX5229 is a result of breakthrough resin technology developed at Total Petrochemicals’ Houston-based Research and Technology Center and incorporated at Total Petrochemicals’ Carville, Louisiana Styrene site, ” said Phil Carruthers, Styrenics’ Vice President, “Our state-of-the-art Polystyrene Pilot Plant in Houston provides a key technology bridge between research and manufacturing, giving us the ability to continue the development of next generation polystyrene products.”

According to Juan Aguirre, technical services manager Polystyrene, “CX5229 improves productivity in conventional extrusion equipment by reducing operating pressures and required process temperatures.” He said that production gains of 10-15% could be obtained with minimal adjustments. And superior melt strength broadens the end product’s processing window and enhances mechanical properties, thereby increasing the design scope of finished products.



Processor benefits include better-engineered and more economical products. The lower energy requirements of CX5229, together with higher throughput capability without additional capital investment, results in lower overall conversion costs.

For foamed applications, CX5229 has a smaller environmental footprint, not only with its lower energy requirement for processing, but also with improved CO₂ incorporation. In the industry's ongoing search for a better foaming agent solution, CX5229 stands out with its enhanced ability to use CO₂ as part of the formulation. Benefits of CO₂ versus traditional foaming agents include potential for lower VOC content in the finished product, reduced fire risk, optimized aging requirements, and lower plant emissions.

For more information about Total Petrochemicals' new enhanced flow high heat crystal polystyrene CX5229, contact our Technical Service team at 281-884-0500, or visit our web site at www.totalpetrochemicalsusa.com.

Total Petrochemicals USA, Inc. is headquartered in Houston and produces polypropylene, polyethylene, polystyrene, styrene, base chemicals and transportation fuels. With sales of \$10.04 billion in 2005, the company employs about 1,700 people in the U.S. and has manufacturing facilities in Texas and Louisiana as well as a research and technology facility in La Porte, Texas and a refinery in Port Arthur, Texas.

www.totalpetrochemicalsusa.com



13:22Total Petrochemicals encompasses petrochemicals activities of Total, the fourth largest oil company worldwide. Its business includes base petrochemicals from steam crackers and certain refinery processing plants – olefins (ethylene, propylene), C₄ fractions and aromatics (benzene, toluene, xylenes and styrene) – as well as the commodity polymers they derived from (polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene and elastomers). Total Petrochemicals employs 7,500 people in Europe, the United States, the Middle East and Asia. Its products are used in many consumer and industrial markets, including Packaging, Construction and Automotive.