

Hybrid Plastics Begins Producing POSS® Masterbatch For Commercial Customers

Hattiesburg, MS: Hybrid Plastics, Inc. has installed an extruder line for the compounding of POSS® masterbatch at its new facility in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. It is intended to satisfy demand from customers who began launching commercial film applications in the fall of 2004. A second extruder line is planned for 2005.

Masterbatch is a concentrated blend of one or more ingredients within a base polymer. This masterbatch later is diluted through a subsequent mixing operation to become part of the final polymer compound. The Masterbatch is added in small amounts to this final material to achieve desired properties.

POSS® [Polyhedral Oligomeric Silsesquioxanes] is a revolutionary new Nanotechnology based on silicon-derived building blocks that provide nanometer-scale control to dramatically improve the thermal and mechanical properties of traditional polymers while offering easy incorporation using existing manufacturing protocols. These compounds have an average diameter of just 1.5 nanometers, or billionth of a meter. POSS® nanomaterials can be used both as direct replacements for hydrocarbon based materials or as low-density performance additives to traditional plastics. They release no VOCs, and, thereby, produce no odor or air pollution. They are biocompatible, recyclable, non-flammable, and competitively priced with traditional polymer feedstocks. POSS® Nanostructured® materials can be readily incorporated into virtually any existing polymer system through blending, grafting or copolymerization.

These POSS® nanobuilding-blocks were hailed by R&D magazine as one of the 100 most technologically significant new products globally for the year 2000. More recently, Hybrid Plastics was one of five finalists for the Small Times Magazine's *2002 Best of Small Tech Award* for its POSS® Nanostructured® materials. The Small Times Magazine Best of Small Tech Awards recognize globally the best people, products and companies in nanotechnology, MEMS and microsystems.

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