

**Hybrid Plastics Receives the
Council of Chemical Research Collaboration Success Award for 2001**

Fountain Valley, March 29, 2002: The Council of Chemical Research presented their 2001 Collaboration Success Award to Hybrid Plastics, Inc., the Air Force Research Laboratory - Edwards Air Force Base and the University of California - Irvine at their annual meeting in Cincinnati on Sunday, March 24, 2002. The long-standing collaboration which launched the development of Polyhedral Oligomeric Silsesquioxane (POSS™) Nanotechnology dates back to 1998. These hybrid nanochemicals had been hailed by R&D magazine as one of the 100 most technologically significant new products for the year 2000.

POSS™ Nanotechnology is a revolutionary new platform technology based on structurally well-defined, nanometer-scale, silicon-derived materials which dramatically improve the thermal and mechanical properties of traditional polymers while offering easy incorporation using existing manufacturing protocols. They release no VOCs and thereby produce no odor or air pollution. POSS™ materials can be used both as direct replacements for hydrocarbon based materials or as low-density performance additives to traditional plastics. They are biocompatible, recyclable, non-flammable, and competitively priced with traditional polymer feedstocks. POSS™ Nanostructured™ materials can be incorporated into virtually any existing polymer system through blending, grafting or co-polymerization.

The research collaboration was originally established under the Advanced Technology Program of NIST to reduce the cost and accelerate development of the nanotechnology. Initially focused on high temperature plastic materials for use in rocket propulsion systems, it rapidly expanded to address a multitude of far-reaching applications. Early work with POSS™ established the revolutionary nature of the technology for improving the properties and performance of a wide variety of thermoplastic and thermoset systems (e.g., acrylics, styrenics, urethanes, epoxies, rubbers, siloxanes) and set the stage for rapid development of Nanostructured™ materials. POSS™ nanostructures have also demonstrated promise in a wide range of other applications, ranging from drug delivery to electronics to sporting equipment.

The total corporate and government investment in this field since 1991 is over \$15M. This investment has allowed this research collaboration team to leverage technical expertise and R&D costs in order to achieve advances in POSS™ technology that would not have been possible for any one of the individual organizations to accomplish independently.

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