

Hybrid Plastics Receives \$5,600,000 Defense Production Act Contract To Increase Production Capacity

Hattiesburg, MS: Hybrid Plastics, Inc. has received a \$5,600,000 facilitization contract under Title III of the Defense Production Act. This contract will be used to ensure that there is adequate production capability for its award-winning POSS[®] Nanostructured[®] Chemicals for defense as well as commercial applications.

POSS[®] Nanomaterials represent a revolutionary platform technology with a wide spectrum of applications. For example, the U.S. Air Force recently stated that "POSS polymers may soon replace Kapton[®] for all military and commercial space applications."

Recognizing the strategic importance of POSS[®] chemicals, Senators Cochran and Lott worked to get the support of Title III of the Defense Production Act for this initiative. This Title III funding will significantly increase Hybrid's defense production capacity. Senator Cochran commented, "In 2004, Hybrid Plastics chose to move from California to South Mississippi to take advantage of the cutting-edge polymer research that is taking place in our state. This funding will enable Hybrid Plastics to continue its efforts to enhance our defense capabilities. I am pleased that the Department of Defense recognizes the potential impact of this award winning nanotechnology. The leadership at the University of Southern Mississippi and the Area Development Partnership continue to make this area a destination for the world's best polymer researchers and businesses."

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.

Hybrid Plastics wishes to acknowledge Senators Cochran and Lott, Governor Barbour, Congressman Taylor, as well as the other state agencies whose support and enthusiasm have been critical to the success of Hybrid Plastics.

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