

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Media Relations
Ken Gordon
614-790-1832
kdgordon@ashland.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 15, 2009

**Ashland's new ENVIREZ® resin formulation
for pultruded products adds to LEED points**

DUBLIN, Ohio – A new formulation of Ashland's ENVIREZ® resin technology can now be used for pultrusion applications. ENVIREZ 50380 resin from Ashland Performance Materials, a commercial unit of Ashland Inc. (NYSE: ASH), has high reactivity that supports fast line speeds.

"We are very excited to expand our ENVIREZ resin line to include pultruded products," said Mike Wallenhorst, director, product management, unsaturated polyesters North America, Ashland Performance Materials. "Our customers who pultrude window lineals and other building components have an opportunity to supply builders with products that earn credit toward points under the U.S. Building Code Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)."

ENVIREZ 50380 resin contains recycled materials and contributes to LEED points under Materials and Resource Credits 4.1 and 4.2. Ashland first introduced ENVIREZ resin in 2002 for use in sheet molding compound and has since expanded the range of applications for the product to include hand lay up, infusion molding and solid surface products.

Ashland Performance Materials is the number one global leader in unsaturated polyester resins and vinyl ester resins. In addition, it provides customers with leading technologies in gelcoats, pressure-sensitive and structural adhesives, and metal casting consumables and design services.

- more -

Ashland's new ENVIREZ resin formulation adds to LEED points for pultruded products p. 2

Ashland Inc. (NYSE: ASH) provides specialty chemical products, services and solutions for many of the world's most essential needs and industries. Serving customers in more than 100 countries, it operates through five commercial units: Ashland Hercules Water Technologies, Ashland Performance Materials, Ashland Aqualon Functional Ingredients, Ashland Consumer Markets (Valvoline) and Ashland Distribution. To learn more about Ashland, visit www.ashland.com.

-0-

® Registered trademark, Ashland