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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Ashland acquires SmartTrac® technology
from Signature Control Systems**

DUBLIN, Ohio – In a move to help customers reduce costs and improve composite manufacturing quality, Ashland Performance Materials, a commercial unit of Ashland Inc. (NYSE: ASH), has acquired the SmartTrac impedance monitoring technology from Denver-based Signature Control Systems (SCS). With this acquisition, Ashland becomes the exclusive provider of this technology to the global composite market.

“We are very excited to offer this technology to our resin customers,” said Gary Landsettle, Ashland Performance Materials director of sales for the Americas. “Customers who work with sheet or bulk molding compound, or resin transfer molding processes can realize significant cost advantages by using this technology to improve cycle time and reduce scrap.” Production cycle time savings of 15 percent or more have been documented.

The system, available only from Ashland, determines the exact moment of cure in a thermoset resin or compound. “SCS has been a technology partner with Ashland since 2003, and this proven monitoring technology is a natural fit for the resin technology we already bring to our customers,” added Landsettle.

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

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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.

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