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Ashland introduces two products for premium boatbuilders to enhance hull appearance through depth of color and functionality

New resins and gelcoats provide superior properties and value to manufacturers and boat owners

DUBLIN, Ohio – In the United States alone, manufacturers of recreational boats comprise a \$6 billion industry. While the demand for new boats depends on growing consumer income, the profitability of individual companies is linked to manufacturing efficiencies and quality. Ashland Performance Materials, a commercial unit of Ashland Inc. (NYSE: ASH), is known for developing gelcoats that deliver ease-of-use and balanced properties. Ashland's commitment to technical service and problem-solving has resulted in the development of Aropol™ NLN 71800 INF infusion resins and Maxguard™ NCP Jet Black gelcoat. Both products are in response to helping the premium boat-building industry meet the high-quality boat owners' expect.

The extensive line of Aropol marine resins ensure Ashland can offer the ideal formulation to optimize boat-building operations. The newest Aropol product – Aropol NLN 71800 series resins are designed specifically for boatbuilders with fast cycle times that desire a Class A automotive, "glass like" surface profile in a close molding application. It leverages Ashland's state-of-the-art Neulon™ low profile technology which allows manufacturers to create surfaces once only possible with high temperatures, automotive type processes. The Aropol NLN 71800 series provides boatbuilders room temperature processing, good mechanical properties, and superior storage stability when compared to traditional low profile resins.

Continuously working to understand the needs and trends of the marine industry, Ashland is aware of how important color is to the consumer and boatbuilder alike. The latest color in the award-winning, premium-grade Maxguard gelcoat line is the Maxguard NCP Jet Black gelcoat. It provides an even deeper, richer black with superior depth of color while retaining the best all-around performance in this high-weathering marine gelcoat. Ashland's gelcoats have an outstanding reputation for exceptional repair properties and sprayability which can be found with the new deeper, rich black color.

"Ashland continues to innovate in the Marine market with the launch of these new products, and significant capital investments in its manufacturing facilities," said Charles Fisher, Product Manager for Ashland Performance Materials. "Our focus on continuous improvement keeps us well positioned as the market leader in marine gelcoats, barrier coats, and resins."

To learn more about Ashland's newest products and other marine solutions, visit Ashland at the upcoming International Boatbuilders Exhibition & Conference (IBEX) in booth #1149 or go to Ashland.com/marine.

[IBEX](#) will be held September 30 through October 2, 2014 at the Tampa Convention Center in Tampa. The show features more than 500 marine-industry suppliers displaying the latest in boat building products and technology. IBEX also presents more than 55 educational seminars, plus exhibitor workshops and demonstrations.

About Ashland Performance Materials

Ashland Performance Materials is the global leader in unsaturated polyester resins and vinyl ester resins. In addition, it offers leading chemical technologies in gelcoats, coatings, intermediates and solvents, and elastomers. Key customers include: manufacturers of residential and commercial building products; infrastructure engineers; wind blade and pipe manufacturers; auto, truck and tire makers; and boatbuilders. Visit ashland.com to learn more.

About Ashland

Ashland Inc. (NYSE: ASH) is a global leader in providing specialty chemical solutions to customers in a wide range of consumer and industrial markets, including architectural coatings, automotive, construction, energy, food and beverage, personal care and pharmaceutical. Through our three commercial units - Ashland Specialty Ingredients, Ashland Performance Materials and Valvoline - we use good chemistry to make great things happen for customers in more than 100 countries. Visit ashland.com to learn more.

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