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Ashland introduces high performance and sustainable solutions at China Composites 2013

Shanghai, China - Over the past several decades, composite materials have emerged as an increasingly popular construction alternative to steel and concrete. Today composites perform better, offer improved processing efficiency and contribute to a cleaner environment. Composite materials can be found everywhere from household tabletops to industrial tanks, and as manufacturers continue to seek high performance and sustainable solutions, Ashland Performance Materials has successfully turned many customer ideas into new products. These innovative ideas will be showcased during the upcoming China Composites from September 11-13 in Beijing.

Chinese sanitary manufacturers now have more choices than ever when producing sanitary wares ranging from bathtubs to water closets. Maxguard™ GNJ gelcoat is specifically designed to deliver prime performance including excellent water resistance, high gloss retention, surface hardness and shortened manufacturing process time.

Ashland fire retardant (FR) resins and gelcoats have also been serving the Chinese mass transit market - including passenger trains, trams and subways - for more than 15 years. FR gelcoats such as Maxguard SRI, FR and Enguard™ GFE are fire resistant with high-quality color for high-speed trains and subways. Hetron™ and Modar™ FR resins have been widely used seat shells and interior panels in the trains.

"Ashland has enjoyed a proven record of success with gelcoats, and we are committed to building long-term partnerships with our customers," said Piotr Musial, global gelcoats product manager, Ashland Performance Materials, "With the recent opening of our world-class gelcoat plant in Changzhou, we are better positioned to deliver high-quality gelcoats and service to our customers in China and throughout Asia."

For the industrial market, Ashland's Derakane™ epoxy vinyl ester resins offer better results when compared to other material: for both heat and corrosion resistance. With increasing public concern about air quality in China, Derakane resins help coal-fired power plants protect the structural integrity of components used to clean exhaust before it is released into the atmosphere. The Chinese government has begun aggressively implementing regulations on adding flue gas desulfurization (FGD) systems to both existing and new combustion units, and Derakane epoxy vinyl ester resin (EVER) is the ideal material for these systems.

"Innovation and sustainability are the core of our business strategy," explained Baochang Zhang, vice president, Ashland Performance Materials, Asia Pacific. "Products with higher performance are increasingly demanded by a variety of consumer and industrial markets in Asia Pacific region. Ashland is proud to have the opportunity in making our customers' dreams come true. China's composites industry is advancing and Ashland always keeps our commitment to deliver the high performance and sustainable products to China."

About Ashland Performance Materials

Ashland Performance Materials is a global leader in composite resins, gelcoats, adhesives, specialty coatings and elastomers. It also provides metal casting consumables and design services for effective foundry management through the ASK Chemicals GmbH joint venture. Performance Materials' products are used in construction, transportation, boatbuilding, and packaging and converting markets. Key customers include manufacturers of residential and commercial building products, infrastructure engineers, wind blade manufacturers, pipe manufacturers, auto and truck makers, tire makers, commercial label printers, specialty film converters and boat builders. See ashland.com for more information.

About Ashland Inc.

In more than 100 countries, the people of Ashland Inc. provide the specialty chemicals, technologies and insights to help customers create new and improved products for today and sustainable solutions for tomorrow. Our chemistry is at work every day in a wide variety of markets and applications, including architectural coatings, automotive, construction, energy, food and beverage, personal care, pharmaceutical, tissue and towel, and water treatment. Visit ashland.com to see the innovations we offer through our four commercial units - Ashland Specialty Ingredients, Ashland Water Technologies, Ashland Performance Materials and Ashland Consumer Markets.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
Media Relations

Gillian Zhou
+86 (21) 2402-4881
gzhou@ashland.com