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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Ashland launches new products to improve precision in wind energy metal castings**

DUBLIN, Ohio – Precision in creating a wind turbine’s hub can impact its performance and expected lifespan. Two new metal casting products from Ashland Performance Materials, a commercial unit of Ashland Inc. (NYSE: ASH), bring foundries an opportunity to reach a new level of high-quality precision metal casting.

Magnaset<sup>®</sup> binders and catalysts are newly-developed products specifically designed for foundries that supply wind turbine hubs, or any nodular iron castings where metallurgical properties at the casting surface are critical to control. “Our Magnaset binders and catalysts offer a very thorough cure and a rapid deep set, which enables foundries to use lower levels of sulfur-containing catalysts. This reduces the possibility of metallurgical nodularity fade, which is very important in wind energy castings. Also our Magnaset binders reduce sulfur dioxide emissions in the environment,” said Jim Archibald, business development manager, Ashland Performance Materials’ casting solutions business.

Converting to Magnaset binders and catalysts enabled foundries to improve productivity, casting quality and environmental compliance. These new products are available globally by contacting Ashland’s castings solutions business account managers, or by calling Jim Archibald at (614) 790-4599. In addition to binders, Ashland offers Velvacoat<sup>®</sup> refractory coatings and Exactcast<sup>®</sup> sleeves, risers and related technology.

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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.

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 Aqualon Functional Ingredients, Ashland Hercules Water Technologies, Ashland Performance Materials that also supplies specialty materials for the windmill blades, Ashland Consumer Markets (Valvoline) and Ashland Distribution. To learn more about Ashland, visit [www.ashland.com](http://www.ashland.com).

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