



October 18, 2005

Ashland Inc. Announces Webcast of Fourth-Quarter Earnings Presentation to Securities Analysts

COVINGTON, Ky., Oct. 18 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Ashland Inc. (NYSE: ASH) today announced that on Monday, October 24, at 5:00 p.m. (EDT), it will conduct a live webcast of its fourth-quarter earnings presentation to the investment community. The presentation will cover results for the quarter ended September 30, the fourth quarter of Ashland's 2005 fiscal year, as well as the full fiscal year. The company's results will be issued at 8:00 a.m. that day.

(Logo: <http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20040113/ASHLANDLOGO>)

In attendance at the presentation will be: James J. O'Brien, chairman and chief executive officer; J. Marvin Quin, senior vice president and chief financial officer; Gary A. Cappelino, president and chief operating officer, Chemical Sector; R. Kirk Randolph, vice president, Ashland Inc., and president, APAC; and Daragh L. Porter, vice president, finance, and treasurer, with responsibility for investor relations.

The webcast, which will last approximately 60 minutes, will be accessible through Ashland's Investor Relations website, <http://www.ashland.com/investors>. Following the live event, an archived version of the webcast will be available on the Ashland website for 12 months. Minimum requirements to listen to the webcast include the free Windows MediaPlayer software and a 28.8 Kbps connection to the Internet.

Ashland Inc. (NYSE: ASH) is a Fortune 500 chemical and transportation construction company providing products, services and customer solutions throughout the world. To learn more about Ashland, visit <http://www.ashland.com>.

SOURCE Ashland Inc.

-0-

10/18/2005

/CONTACT: Media Relations, Jim Vitak, +1-614-790-3715, or jevitak@ashland.com, or Investor Relations, Daragh Porter, +1-859-815-3825, or dlporter@ashland.com, both of Ashland Inc./

/Photo: <http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20040113/ASHLANDLOGO>

AP Archive: <http://photoarchive.ap.org>

PRN Photo Desk, photodesk@prnewswire.com /

/Company News On-Call: <http://www.prnewswire.com/comp/065263.html> /

/Web site: <http://www.ashland.com>

<http://www.ashland.com/investors> /

(ASH)

CO: Ashland Inc.

ST: Kentucky

IN: OIL CHM TRN CST

SU: CCA MAV

AK-CF

-- CLTU070 --

6003 10/18/2005 12:29 EDT <http://www.prnewswire.com>

"Safe Harbor" Statement under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995: Statements in this press release regarding Ashland's business which are not historical facts are "forward-looking statements" that involve risks and uncertainties. For a discussion of such risks and uncertainties, which could cause actual results to differ from those contained in the forward-looking statements, see "Risk Factors" in the Company's Annual Report or Form 10-K for the most recently ended fiscal year.