



NEWS RELEASE

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Excel Polymers and Mitsui Announce Joint Venture

SOLON, Ohio -- (December, 2006) Excel Polymers LLC of the United States and Mitsui and Co., Ltd., of Japan have agreed to form a joint venture for the production of rubber compounds in southern China. The joint venture will be owned 61 percent by Excel Polymers and 39 percent by Mitsui. The company will operate under the Excel name as EXLP Global (Foshan) Co., Ltd., and will be located in the Shunde Science and Technology Industrial Park in Guangdong Province of the People's Republic of China. The operation will be about 40 kilometers south of Guangzhou and about 100 kilometers northwest of Hong Kong.

This new, green field facility is expected to be completed and begin production by the beginning of 2008. It will utilize the proprietary state-of-the-art Spectrum/Prism® production and process control technologies developed by Excel Polymers. There will be two lines operating initially, with capacity for more than 50 million pounds per year for production of a wide variety of natural and synthetic rubber compounds. These compounds are converted by customers to produce products for the automotive, printing, industrial and consumer markets in China and the Asian region. Excel also has a wholly owned operation in Shanghai, which was recently expanded.

John Quinn, president and CEO of Excel, stated, "This new venture will allow us to continue to support the needs of our customers globally by providing a world-class facility in this rapidly growing region. We are delighted to have Mitsui as a partner in this new company. Mitsui brings a wealth of experience in serving the regional supply chain with a broad basket of polymers and chemicals. We are very excited about our potential growth in Asia." Quinn also pointed out the extraordinary cooperation and support provided by the team at the Shunde Science and Technology Industrial Park in Guangdong Province.

Excel Polymers is the world's leading provider of customized, high-performance compounded elastomer materials, roll compounds and efficiency-improving additives.

End-use markets include transportation, consumer goods, industrial, construction, oil and gas, and roller markets. Excel is headquartered in Solon, Ohio, and operates eight plants in the United States, Mexico, the United Kingdom and China. More information on Excel Polymers is available at www.excel-polymers.com.

Mitsui & Co., Ltd. (TSE: 8031), together with its subsidiaries and associated companies, is one of Japan's largest general trading companies, trades in a diverse range of goods with business partners in every region of the world, and also engages in major international infrastructure and other projects. Mitsui undertakes sales and marketing, import and export, and international trading and manufacturing in business segments including metal products and minerals, machinery, electronics and information, chemicals, energy, and consumer products and services.

Mitsui provides comprehensive services in areas such as retail, logistics and transportation, and finance, and is actively involved in natural resource development. Mitsui's strategic business investments include IT and emerging technologies, and it undertakes a broad range of other business initiatives.

For more information, please see <http://www.mitsui.co.jp/en/>.

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