



News Release

For Immediate Release

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ACC ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR THE 2008 POLYURETHANE INNOVATION AWARDS

Conference Attendees to Vote on Winners during Polyurethanes 2008 Technical Conference

ARLINGTON, VA (September 2, 2008) – Eight finalists for the 2008 Polyurethane Innovation Awards have been announced by the Center for the Polyurethanes Industry (CPI) of the American Chemistry Council (ACC). CPI's Polyurethane Innovation Awards are designed to recognize and reward the role that innovation plays in advancing the polyurethanes industry. This year's Innovation Awards program consists of three categories: Polyurethane Chemicals, Processing Equipment, and Finished Products. Voting by conference attendees will take place September 29 and 30, and winners will be announced October 1 during the closing session of the Polyurethanes 2008 Technical Conference at the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel in San Antonio.

“Innovation is the life blood of the polyurethanes industry and a powerful indicator of future growth,” says Neeva-Gayle Candelori, director of CPI. “Based on this year's entries and the hard choices we had to make in selecting our eight finalists, I'd say our industry is stronger than ever and heading in some very exciting directions.”

Polyurethane Chemicals Finalists

Ashland Performance Materials was selected for its development of a two-component laminating adhesive composition based on aliphatic polyurethane chemistry, which enables processable bond strengths in less than 24 hours versus the industry standard 7 to 14 days. BASF Corporation was chosen for its introduction of BALANCE bio-polyols, a non-food based natural alternative created using double-metal catalyst compounds for the 100 percent replacement of conventional polyols in flexible foam applications. The third finalist is Merquinsa/Merquinsa North America for its innovative new Pearlthane® ECO thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU) using a full range of bi-functional vegetal polyols to create TPUs with renewable content ranging from 30 to 90 percent by weight.

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Processing Equipment Finalists

Graco is a finalist for its innovative Graco® Fusion® CS Spray Gun with ClearShot Technology™ for foam and polyurea applications. It features a variable flow setting and the use of ClearShot Liquid™ to purge the mix chamber and remove built-up material. The other finalist is KrausMaffei for the development of an electric nozzle pin control in the mixing head, enabling quick, precise component pressure adjustments, even when the output is changing rapidly from shot to shot.

Finished Product Finalists

Acma Industries was selected for its innovative Kradal flooring, which is produced using a unique blend of polyurethane materials to create a very thin but firm floor that is waterproof and light stable; an excellent heat and sound insulator; and dissipates peak load impacts by 70 percent, which greatly reduces the chances of injury in the advent of an accidental fall. BASF was chosen for its development of Elastocoast® polyurethane-coated stones for use as coastal revetment structures, which improves durability, cost and/or aesthetics compared with traditional alternatives. Fenner Precision and HP Labs are co-finalists for the development of electrically charged polyurethane elastomer roll (known as Bias Charge Roll, or BCR) and its enabling application in the introduction of the HP-7000 high-speed digital printer.

A panel of five judges representing a cross section of polyurethanes experience and knowledge evaluated and selected the finalists. The judges this year included two journalists – Frank Gupta, *PU Magazine*, and Liz White, *Urethanes Technology* – polyurethane consultant Stuart Watson; Billie Faircloth, assistant professor, School of Architecture, The University of Texas at Austin; and Neeva-Gayle Candelori of CPI.

Finalist entries will be on display during the Polyurethanes 2008 Technical Conference and attendees will have a chance to cast one vote per category beginning at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, September 29. The results will be announced on Wednesday, October 1, 2008, during the closing session of the conference.

More than 1,200 influential scientists, engineers, manufacturers and business leaders from around the world are expected to attend the Polyurethanes 2008 Technical Conference to discuss and demonstrate innovations, advances and breakthroughs in polyurethane materials and technology. The Conference will

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spotlight 19 technical sessions, with many additional poster presentations on breakthrough technologies, developing markets and product innovations. The keynote speaker this year is Dr. Barry Asmus, Senior Economist with the National Center for Policy Analysis.

To register go to www.americanchemistry.com/polyurethane, or call CPI at (703) 741-5103.

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The American Chemistry Council (ACC) represents the leading companies engaged in the business of chemistry. ACC members apply the science of chemistry to make innovative products and services that make people's lives better, healthier and safer. ACC is committed to improved environmental, health and safety performance through Responsible Care[®], common sense advocacy designed to address major public policy issues, and health and environmental research and product testing. The business of chemistry is a \$664 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation's economy. It is one of the nation's largest exporters, accounting for ten cents out of every dollar in U.S. exports. Chemistry companies are among the largest investors in research and development. Safety and security have always been primary concerns of ACC members, and they have intensified their efforts, working closely with government agencies to improve security and to defend against any threat to the nation's critical infrastructure.

www.americanchemistry.com/polyurethane

The Center for the Polyurethanes Industry of the American Chemistry Council promotes the sustainable growth of the polyurethane industry, consistent with the principles of Responsible Care[®], by identifying and managing issues that could impact the industry, in cooperation with user groups. Its members are U.S. producers or distributors of chemicals and equipment used to make polyurethane or are manufacturers of polyurethane products. The business of polyurethanes is a \$56.1 billion enterprise, supports about 220,000 jobs and a key element of the nation's economy.

