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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DSM Desotech-USA: Kim Axiotis, Tel. +1-847-468-7773, kim.axiotis@dsm.com

DSM Desotech Inc. Named One of America's Safest Companies

Elgin, Illinois, September 30, 2004— DSM Desotech Inc., a world leader in the development and supply of high performance UV-curable materials, has been named one of America's Safest Companies by *Occupational Hazards* magazine, the nation's leading magazine of safety, health and loss prevention. The annual award recognizes companies for outstanding occupational safety and health programs and processes for their employees.

"The 16 companies chosen as America's Safest Companies 2004 recognize both the intrinsic value of occupational safety and health and the business advantages that it provides in terms of increased profit, productivity, quality and morale," said Stephen Minter, editor of *Occupational Hazards* magazine. "These companies share a conviction that workplace safety and health can be managed just like other business functions, and that the companies that manage it best reap substantial advantage over their competitors."

DSM Desotech President Steve Hartig said, "Safety is a top priority within DSM Desotech, and throughout all DSM companies worldwide, for a number of reasons: First and foremost, for the well being of our associates, second for the communities which surround our facilities and, third, for our shareholders—as we believe that efforts and investments in safety bring an excellent return."

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DSM Desotech Inc. is a world leader in the development and supply of high performance UV-curable materials. Desotech's U.S. sites have recorded more than 10,000 man days without a lost time accident.

DSM Desotech Inc. is comprised of three U.S. facilities: an Elgin, Illinois headquarters and Research & Development facility, a manufacturing facility in Stanley, North Carolina, and a subsidiary company, DSM Somos, in New Castle, Delaware. Together, these sites represent more than 10,000 man days without a lost time accident. Desotech also operates facilities outside the U.S. in the Netherlands, China and Japan.

In addition to being named one of America's safest companies, DSM Desotech's outstanding safety record has also resulted in seven consecutive nominations for the global DSM Safety Award, presented annually to one of more than 200 DSM companies worldwide. Desotech's Elgin site won the award in 1999 and the Desotech Stanley site was named runner up in 2003.

Occupational Hazards magazine selects the list of America's Safest Companies based on recommendations by industry professionals, recognition by industry associations, participation in programs such as OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program, state and local awards, and Occupational Hazards' research into the occupational health and safety philosophy and programs of the company. All 16 companies named will be profiled in the October issue of *Occupational Hazards* magazine.

More about DSM Desotech

DSM Desotech is a global supplier of high-performance UV-curable materials and the world's leading supplier of coatings, inks and matrix resins used for the production of optical fiber and optical fiber cable. The companies product portfolio includes DeSolite[®] Optical Fiber Coatings, Cablelite[®] Inks and Matrix Materials, Bufferlite[™] Tight Buffer Materials, DeSolite Display Materials and OptoClear[™] Nano-Structured Anti-Reflective Coatings for display applications.

DSM Desotech operates as a business unit of Koninklijke DSM N.V., headquartered in the Netherlands. In addition to its U.S. facilities, Desotech also operates facilities in Europe and Asia and maintains a global network of sales agents throughout more than 20 countries. More information about DSM Desotech can be found at: [**www.dsmdesotech.com**](http://www.dsmdesotech.com)

More about DSM

DSM is active worldwide in life science and nutritional products, performance materials and industrial chemicals. The company creates innovative products and services that help improve the quality of life. DSM's products are being applied in a wide range of end markets and applications such as human

and animal nutrition and health, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, automotive and transport, coatings, housing and electrics & electronics (E & E). The group has annual sales (pro forma including the recent acquisition - renamed DSM Nutritional Products) of approximately EUR 8 billion and employs in the region of 25,000 people around the world. DSM ranks among the global leaders in many of its fields. DSM is headquartered in the Netherlands, with locations in Europe, Asia and the Americas.

As a chemical and biotechnology company that focuses on sustainability, DSM gives Safety, Health and the Environment (SHE) the greatest possible attention and maintains a company-wide "Triple P Policy" outlining responsible action toward People, Plant and Profit. The company's goal is to rank among the top 25% in its industry when it comes to safe and healthy work practices. DSM sets itself challenging targets on improving safety, health and environmental performance, which are reported annually in the Triple P Report. Visit www.sustainability.dsm.com for more information.

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