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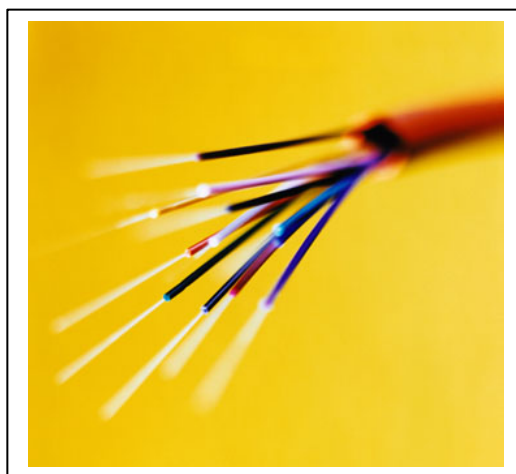
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bufferlite™ UV-Curable Tight Buffer Materials Named Among Top Products of 2004

Elgin, Illinois, January 31, 2005— DSM Desotech's line of Bufferlite™ UV-curable tight buffer materials has been named among the Top Products of 2004 by Wire & Cable Technology International magazine. Winners were selected based on the total number of reader inquiries received throughout the year by the magazine.

DSM Desotech is the world's leading supplier of UV-curable materials for the production of optical fiber and cable. In November 2003, it introduced Bufferlite 3000 Series flame-retardant tight buffer resins for use in riser applications. In November 2004, it followed with the introduction of Bufferlite 3038 Series Easy Strip tight buffer resins for use in 500-900 micron applications. Both series are available in 12 colors.



Bufferlite 3000 Series Low-Smoke, Zero-Halogen Tight Buffer Resins

Bufferlite 3000 Series flame-retardant tight buffer resins are designed to offer a desirable alternative to traditional thermoplastic buffer materials. In addition to their high processing speeds, low scrap rates and an environmentally-friendly design (all Bufferlite materials are lead-free and halogen-free), these resins also pass UL 1685 smoke and UL 1666 flame-propagation requirements, making them suitable for riser applications.

Bufferlite 3038 Series Easy-Strip Tight Buffer Resins

Bufferlite 3038 tight buffer resins offer manufacturers greater design flexibility than traditional thermo-

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plastic buffers in their suitability for either 500 or 900 micron tight buffer applications. True to their name, Bufferlite 3038 series resins can be easily stripped off inked fiber even after long-term aging, allowing for reduced termination times. Like Bufferlite 3000 Series resins, they also provide the advantages of high-speed processing and reduced scrap rates.

"Bufferlite tight buffer materials were extremely well-received by the industry this past year," says DSM Desotech Marketing Manager-Inks & Matrix David Chase. "They're the first materials to deliver the advantages of UV-curable technology to the tight buffer process and the industry is just beginning to realize the full extent of the manufacturing and performance benefits that can be achieved."

For more information about Bufferlite UV-curable tight buffer resins, visit: www.dsmdesotech.com.

More About DSM Desotech (www.dsmdesotech.com)

DSM Desotech is the world's leading supplier of high-performance UV-curable materials used for the production of optical fiber and optical fiber cable, including: DeSolite® Optical Fiber Coatings, Cablelite® Inks and Matrix Materials, and Bufferlite™ Tight Buffer Materials. DSM Desotech is also a producer of specialty UV-curable products used in a variety of other industries.

DSM Desotech operates as a business unit of DSM. In addition to its Elgin headquarters facility, Desotech operates manufacturing facilities in the United States, Europe and Asia and maintains a global network of sales agents throughout more than 20 countries.

DSM

DSM is active worldwide in life science and nutritional products, performance materials and industrial chemicals. The company specializes in innovative products and services that help improve the quality of life and DSM products are currently used 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 about 26,000 people around the world. Ranking among the global leaders in many of its fields, DSM is headquartered in the Netherlands, with locations in Europe, Asia and the Americas. More information about DSM can be found at www.dsm.com <<http://www.dsm.com/>>

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