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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DSM Somos® Announces Commercial Availability of 9420 EP-White SL Resin amidst Positive Reviews

Elgin, Illinois, April 25, 2006 — DSM Somos is pleased to announce the commercial availability of its newest multi-purpose stereolithography (SL) resin, Somos 9420 EP-White. Combining the mechanical performance of polypropylene with an aesthetic similar to white injection molded materials, EP-White has received positive reviews from the Rapid Prototyping (RP) industry since its introduction in the fall of 2005.

“Somos 9420 builds on the standard-setting performance of Somos 9120 for creating functional prototypes” says DSM Somos Marketing Manager Eva Montgomery. “The feedback we’ve received back from our beta test sites and their customers—particularly regarding parts made for the automotive sector—has been quite remarkable.” Early market acceptance of Somos 9420 EP-White will allow Somos to begin offering 9420 through all of its distribution channels as of April 30, 2006.

Exceptional Performance, Aesthetics

“This material is strong, resilient and less likely to snap than other SL resins when performing fit and function testing,” says Al Dewitt, President of RP service bureau Rapid Solutions. “In addition, customers really like the way the 9420 parts show due to their bright white color and excellent side wall quality.”

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Above, prototype of a bicycle helmet made from Somos 9420 EP-White. The new resin is earning positive reviews for performance, processing and aesthetics. (Helmet provided courtesy of Select Manufacturing Services, Inc.)

Due to the excellent finishing quality and accuracy of 9420 part builds, Michigan-based service bureau Select Manufacturing has also been using the resin to build patterns for silicone molding.

Broad Application Range

EP-White's flexibility makes it useful for a broad range of applications including snap fit parts, living hinges, and patterns. Jennifer Schaffner, Prototype Manager of GTC Specialties states, "Somos 9420 EP-White is the best SL material I have seen for living hinges. Living hinges made from 9420 were able to be flexed back and forth multiple times without breaking—something most SL resins can not stand up to."

Processing Ease & Reliability

EP-White is proving to be a robust resin choice—a critical factor for cost effective part builds. Ross Gates, President of Select Manufacturing reports 100% completion of all builds in the two plus months that he has been running Somos 9420 EP White. This is especially significant considering Gates averages 15 builds per week.

"We're confident that Somos 9420 is going to be a very popular resin for functional prototyping in a variety of market sectors," says Eva Montgomery. To learn more about the material, or to find a list of service bureaus currently offering parts made from EP-White, visit www.dsmsomos.com.

More About DSM Somos®

DSM Somos is a leading materials supplier to the rapid prototyping industry, providing stereolithography liquids used for the creation of three-dimensional models and prototypes directly from digital data. Somos' patented ProtoFunctional® materials are used by a variety of industries, including automotive, aerospace, medical and telecommunications. Somos' corporate office is located at: 1122 St. Charles Street, Elgin, Illinois, USA, Tel. +1-847-697-0400, Americas@dsmsomos.info. For more information on DSM Somos® in Europe:

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DSM Somos (www.dsmsomos.com) is an unincorporated subsidiary of DSM Desotech Inc. (www.dsmdesotech.com)—a world leader in the development of UV-curable materials—and a member of the global DSM family.

More about DSM

DSM is active worldwide in nutritional and pharma ingredients, performance materials and

industrial chemicals. The company creates innovative products and services that help improve the quality of life. DSM's products are 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). DSM's strategy, named *Vision 2010 – Building on Strengths*, focuses on accelerating profitable and innovative growth of the company's specialties portfolio. Market-driven growth, innovation and increased presence in emerging economies are key drivers of this strategy. The group has annual sales of approximately EUR 8 billion and employs around 22,000 people worldwide. DSM ranks among the global leaders in many of its fields. The company is headquartered in the Netherlands, with locations in Europe, Asia and the Americas. More information about DSM can be found at www.dsm.com

More About DSM Somos® Materials

What is stereolithography?

Stereolithography (SL) permits the rapid creation of 3D pieces utilizing a computer-controlled laser that polymerizes light-sensitive resins. The process is highly precise and constructs the object in a series of "additive layers," providing the advantage of producing highly complex forms that are difficult or impossible to fabricate by machining or traditional molding techniques. The evolution of advanced SL materials offers the potential of moving stereolithography from prototyping into production.

DSM Somos ProtoComposites™ are resins reinforced with various materials, such as ceramics and glasses, to produce functional properties not possible using individual components. Somos ProtoComposite materials are a result of a research and development program investigating the potential for ACT-SL™ (Advanced Composite Technology for StereoLithography).

DSM Somos ProtoFunctional® resins for stereolithography provide advanced technology to respond to the changing needs of new product development and industrial design. In 2003, DSM Somos announced ProtoTool™ ceramic-filled resins, the first member belonging to the new ACT-SL™ technology and the result of a significant research and development program. Traditional non-composite ProtoFunctional materials by DSM Somos satisfy a varying range of characteristics: transparency, superior humidity and heat resistance, and outstanding mechanical properties, replicating those of many production grade plastics such as polypropylene, polyethylene, ABS and PBT. Technical data on all Somos® materials may be found at www.dsmsomos.com

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