

April 4, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DSM Somos Contact: Ty Bacon, Tel. 302-326-8110; ty.bacon@dsm.com

J4 Communications Contact: Mark Bruner, J4 Communications, Tel. 330-769-2709; j4com@apk.net

DSM Somos® Introduces Line-Up of New SL Materials for 2005

DSM Somos is pleased to introduce an exciting line-up of new stereolithography (SL) materials for 2005:

Somos ULM™ 17220: Stretching SL Possibilities

First previewed in December 2004 at the Euromold conference in Frankfurt, Germany, Somos ULM 17220 (**Ultra Low Modulus**) is a highly elastomeric material ideal for the prototyping of rubber-like parts.

With a Shore A of approximately 70 and tensile elongation over 100%, ULM 17220 brings the benefits of stereolithography to applications traditionally reserved for laser sintering (SLS) or silicone molding. Major applications for the material are expected in the transportation sector, where elastomeric parts are used extensively. Somos ULM 17220 is now in beta testing.

Somos FR 16120: First Fire Retardant Material Expands SL Market Potential

This year, Somos introduces the industry's first fire-retardant SL material for use in general purpose applications. Somos FR 16120 carries a UL 94 V-0

—more—



Above: Somos ULM™ 17220

Below: Somos FR 16120



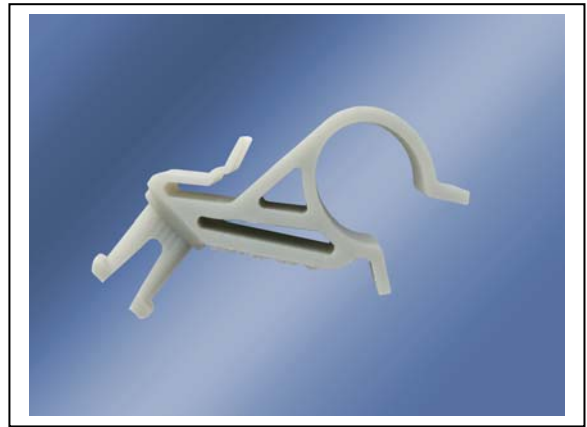
rating, which describes self-extinguishing material behavior in small-scale laboratory tests. It is a common flammability standard for plastic production parts.

Properties of Somos FR 16120 are similar to 94 V-0 rated polyurethane structural foam systems currently used for production parts in business and medical equipment housings, lawn and garden, transportation and electrical housings. The material has been developed for both prototyping and rapid manufacturing use and its general purpose properties allow it to be used easily in a variety of applications. Beta testing of Somos FR 16120 begins this month.

Somos 12920 Precision HT™: Elevating Aesthetics & Heat Resistance

Building on the success of Somos 12120, Somos 12920 Precision HT delivers the look of production injection molding plastic with the highest Heat Deflection Temperature (HDT) currently available in an unreinforced, commercial SL material.

Somos 12920's properties make it ideal for tooling applications, as well as other applications which require a combination of stiffness and elevated temperature performance. It offers excellent accuracy and water resistance and, with an elongation at break of 4%, is similar to time-tested general purpose epoxy hybrid systems such as Somos 7120. Beta testing of Somos 12920 begins this month.



Somos 12920 Precision HT™

Updated Somos HeCd Materials

This year, DSM Somos offers a collection of new resins optimized for use on Helium Cadmium (HeCd) laser systems, with special attention given to part aesthetics. Commercialization of these materials is expected by mid-year:

Somos HeCd Flex is a general purpose material that mimics the properties of polypropylene. It is ideal for applications where parts must bend without breaking. Properties of HeCd Flex are similar to Somos 9110 with the aesthetic updated to "production plastic" white.



Somos HeCd Flex

Somos HeCd Ultra GP mimics the behavior of ABS and is an excellent choice for creating products that need to look and act similarly to production-grade thermoplastics. This resin is clear with a light, glass-like green color.

Somos HeCd Pattern HT is a high-temperature-resistant material with inherent accuracy and water resistance. It is well suited for created patters for tooling applications, as well as other applications which require stiffness and elevated temperature properties.

About DSM Somos®

DSM Somos is currently the world's second largest materials supplier to the rapid prototyping industry, providing stereolithography liquids and selective laser sintering powders 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: 2 Penn's Way, New Castle, DE 19720, USA, Tel. +1-302-326-8100, Americas@dsmsomos.info . For more information on DSM Somos® in Europe: Fax. +39 06 9871694, Europe@dsmsomos.info

DSM Somos is an unincorporated division of DSM Desotech—a world leader in the development of UV-curable materials—and a member of the global DSM family. More information about the companies can be found at www.dsmsomos.com and www.dsmdesotech.com .

About 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

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. DSM Somos ProtoComposite materials are a result of a significant 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

XXX

® : registered trademarks of DSM
™ : trademarks of DSM



Protection of Trademarks and Copyright :

DSM cordially asks those who use this press release to use the classic registered trademark symbol ® and indicate DSM as the owner of the trademark quoted. The use of images made available by DSM is authorized only in reference to DSM editorial material. For other uses, please ask DSM authorization. The same indications are extended to the trademarks of the clients of DSM.