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ADVANCED POLYMERS

For Immediate Release

Sterile Knob Covers Molded of Radel[®] PPSU Deliver Exceptional Sterilizability and Toughness

Thermoset Replacement for New Reusable Components for Surgical Microscopes

ALPHARETTA, Ga., August 11, 2010 – Prescott's Manufacturing Inc.'s new line of sterile knob covers for surgical microscopes are made of Radel[®] R-5100 polyphenylsulfone (PPSU) resin from Solvay Advanced Polymers, LLC, for exceptional autoclavability and toughness. The high-performance thermoplastic also delivers more efficient and faster processing than the incumbent thermoset material.

The knob covers are extensions of the microscope handle and are used to manipulate the microscope during surgery. The reusable covers come in repeated contact with medical personnel and must be sterilized after each procedure. Radel PPSU resin withstands repeated autoclaving – up to 1,000 cycles – while maintaining its toughness and impact resistance.

“We evaluated a range of resins and found that Radel PPSU was superior in terms of autoclavability,” said Philip Schloesser, an engineer for Prescott's Manufacturing.

By tapping into its expertise in injection molding, Prescott's hoped to gain improved manufacturing efficiencies. Injection molded Radel PPSU provides greater productivity than competitive thermosets, boasting a 20-sec cycle time. The PPSU resin also offers good processing stability, low shrinkage, and a tight-tolerance fit to closely match the mating

component. Another key feature is the material's high-quality feel and surface appearance which lends the part a more premium look.

About Prescott's Manufacturing Inc.

Founded in 1980, Prescott's Manufacturing is a leading producer of new and refurbished surgical microscopes. The manufacturing division of Prescott's makes machined and injection molded parts for the medical and aerospace industries. A common material used by Prescott's is Solvay Advanced Polymers' Radel PPSU because of its autoclavability performance. Applications include sterile knob covers and surgical hand tools. For more information, contact (719) 482-5826, jbarnes@prescottsmfg.com, or visit www.prescottsmfg.com.

About Solvay Advanced Polymers

Solvay Advanced Polymers, LLC produces more plastics with more performance than any other company in the world. This gives design engineers worldwide more ways to solve top design challenges in automotive, medical, electronics, aerospace and other demanding industries. Learn more at www.solvayadvancedpolymers.com.

Solvay is an international industrial Group active in Chemistry. It offers a broad range of products and solutions that contribute to improving quality of life. The Group is headquartered in Brussels and its companies employ about 19,000 people in 50 countries. In 2009, its consolidated sales amounted to €8.45 billion. Solvay is listed on the NYSE Euronext stock exchange in Brussels (NYSE Euronext: SOLB.BE - Bloomberg: SOLB.BB - Reuters: SOLBt.BR). Details are available at www.solvay.com.

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