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Polypropylene Resin for the Thermoformed Clear Drink Cup Market *Total Petrochemicals USA Introduces Total M3282MZ*

Houston, Texas (December 16, 2008) – Total Petrochemicals USA, Inc. has introduced a 2.3 g/10min melt flow clarified metallocene homopolymer formulated for sheet extrusion thermoforming market that provides the best clarity and stiffness balance of any polypropylene resin on the market, according to Kim Davies, manager of Total Petrochemicals USA's Polyolefins Marketing and Strategy.

Davies said, "Total M3282MZ is an excellent choice for the clear drink cup market because it uses 25 percent less plastic than PET cups and emits 45 percent less greenhouse gases during the production process."

M3282MZ is in use in cups that meet the application's needs and are better for the environment. The unique characteristic of Total M3282MZ is that it has the clarity of a random copolymer, but the stiffness of a homopolymer. It complements Total's other grades, including Total 3276, which is a general purpose homopolymer, and Total 3287WZ, which contains nucleation and antistatic agents.



Image available at www.totalpetrochemicalsusa.com.



Total Petrochemicals encompasses petrochemicals activities of Total, the fourth largest oil company worldwide. Its business includes base petrochemicals from steam crackers and certain refinery processing plants – olefins (ethylene, propylene), C₄ fractions and aromatics (benzene, toluene, xylenes and styrene) – as well as the commodity polymers they derived from (polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene and elastomers). Total Petrochemicals employs 7,500 people in Europe, the United States, the Middle East and Asia. Its products are used in many consumer and industrial markets, including Packaging, Construction and Automotive.

Total this year added an additional 200 million pounds per year of random copolymer, impact copolymer, and metallocene capacity at its 2.35 billion pounds per year La Porte, Texas polypropylene plant.

Total Petrochemicals USA, Inc. is headquartered in Houston and produces polypropylene, polyethylene, polystyrene, styrene, base chemicals and transportation fuels. With sales of \$10.2 billion in 2007, the company employs about 1,700 people in the U.S. and has manufacturing facilities in Texas and Louisiana as well as a research and technology facility in La Porte, Texas and a refinery in Port Arthur, Texas.

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