

TOTAL PETROCHEMICALS

For Immediate Release

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News Release

COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE

Bernard Claude Appointed President and CEO of Total Petrochemicals USA, Inc.

Houston, Texas – (February 9, 2005) – Bernard Claude has been appointed president and chief executive officer of Total Petrochemicals USA, Inc. and has the additional title of vice president of Base Chemicals.

Total Petrochemicals USA, Inc., which had sales of \$5.3 billion in 2003 and employs more than 1,600 people in the U.S., is headquartered in Houston and produces polypropylene, polyethylene, polystyrene, styrene, base chemicals and transportation fuels. The company has manufacturing facilities in Texas and Louisiana as well as a research and development facility in La Porte, Texas and a refinery in Port Arthur, Texas.

Claude previously was president of Total Petrochemicals' polyethylene business unit in Brussels, Belgium. Total Petrochemicals, headquartered in Brussels, is the parent company of Total Petrochemicals USA.

Claude joined the company in 1976 as a drilling and production engineer for upstream operations in Angola, the North Sea, and Zaire. He later became a process engineer for Ekofisk field in the North Sea, and then was named general manager of Exploration and Production in Great Britain. In 1995, he became manager of Health, Safety, and the Environment in Brussels and in 1996 general manager of the Feluy, Belgium, research center.

Claude and his wife live in Houston.

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.