

TOTAL PETROCHEMICALS

For Immediate Release

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News Release

COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE

De La Noue Appointed President and CEO of Total Holdings USA, Inc. and CFO of Total Petrochemicals USA, Inc.

Houston, Texas – (January 12, 2005) – Bertrand de La Noue has been appointed president and chief executive officer of Total Holdings USA, Inc. and chief financial officer of Total Petrochemicals USA, Inc. as of December 1, 2004.

Previously de La Noue was chief financial officer for Total France, the Refining and Marketing subsidiary of Total S.A.

Total Holdings USA, Inc., a subsidiary of Total S.A., is the parent company for the operational entities in the U.S. of the Total Group. The 16 subsidiaries of Total Holdings USA employ approximately 12,000 people in Oil and Gas and Chemicals activities. Sales in 2003 were \$9.7 billion.

Total Petrochemicals USA, Inc. is headquartered in Houston and produces polypropylene, polyethylene, polystyrene, styrene, base chemicals and transportation fuels. With sales of \$5.3 billion in 2003, the company employs more than 1,600 people in the U.S. and 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.

De La Noue joined the company in 1985 as area manager for Total Oil Great Britain. After several assignments in London, Paris and Tokyo in finance and trading activities, he returned to Paris in 1993 as investor relations manager of Total S.A. From 1996 to 1999 he was general manager information and planning of Total South Africa, based in Johannesburg.

De La Noue, his wife and four children live in Houston, Texas.

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.