News Release

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Ashland advances a culture of problem solving at CPhI 2016
Bringing polymer excipient expertise to pharmaceutical formulation projects, Ashland scientists and commercial leaders help the industry to accelerate oral drug development and solve formulation challenges.

Schaffhausen, Switzerland – Ashland yesterday revealed its new corporate positioning – Always Solving™ – highlighting its organizational culture of being passionate, tenacious solvers dedicated to advancing the competitiveness of their customers worldwide.

At the CPhI exhibition in Barcelona, Spain, Ashland displayed its expertise and resources that enable the pharmaceutical industry to apply polymer excipients in ways that solve complex drug formulation challenges. As pharmaceutical companies increasingly shift the focus of therapeutic projects toward cancer, diabetes, central nervous system disorders and rare diseases, scientific applications of "functional excipients" offer formulators a more robust toolkit to develop oral dosage forms."

"At Ashland, our goal is to help the pharmaceutical industry move through the oral dosage form development process in a way that accelerates the commercialization of today's complex drug formulations," said John Carney, Ashland vice president, pharmaceutical specialties. "Our business is now structured to provide our customers greater access to molecular scientists, polymer chemists and process engineers along with world class products that help to assure the integrity and enable bioavailability of oral drugs."

A problem-solving culture
Ashland is one of the few companies in the world that remains committed to advancing oral pharmaceutical dosage forms with novel applications of legacy excipients and a new-generation of excipient technology. Its global network of laboratories, including pharmaceutical centers of excellence in the United States, Europe and India, support ongoing polymer excipient development and applications research that leads to the improvement of drug-polymer interactions, for solubility and bioavailability enhancement of oral drugs.

"Applying the skills of polymer synthesis experts, process engineers, pharmaceutical materials scientists and formulation experts, Ashland is well positioned to solve technical and formulation problems and further enable pharmaceutical companies to produce the next generation of complex drug molecules in consumer-desirable oral dosage forms," said Thomas Durig, Ashland senior director, pharmaceuticals and nutrition research and development.

Klucel™ HPC: A problem-solving material
Sixty-five years ago, Ashland began to study the fundamental structural properties of functional excipients with the commercialization of Klucel™ hydroxypropylcellulose (HPC), a highly functional water-soluble polymer. Known as the problem-solving material within the pharmaceutical industry, Klucel™ now finds application in a broad range of pharmaceutical formulations. In the past five years alone, approximately 70 drug filings in North America included Klucel™ within the ingredients designation.

"In continuous manufacturing processes, some companies find that Klucel™ helps to improve efficiency and lower their production costs. Both of these value propositions are top priorities within the pharmaceutical industry," said Deneen Law, Director, Global Marketing and Innovation.

Demand for HPC is rising within the pharmaceutical industry and Ashland is in the midst of a capacity expansion at its manufacturing facility in Hopewell, Virginia (USA), to assure supply for its customers.

AquaSolve™ HPMCAS for bioavailability enhancement of poorly soluble drugs
At the CPhI Product Gallery, Ashland has on display AquaSolve hypromellose acetate succinate (HPMCAS) - the latest technology for bioavailability enhancement of poorly soluble drugs. AquaSolve HPMCAS currently finds use as polymeric carriers in spray-dried solid dispersions. Different grades of AquaSolve HPMCAS, with varying acetyl to succinoyl ratios, can have a profound effect on results, depending on the nature of the active pharmaceutical ingredient. The polymer is currently available in three grades, which differ by degree/ratio of substitution.

Law said," Ashland is working to redesign the polymer to enhance the extrudability of HPMCAS in hot-melt extrusion applications."

For more information about Ashland's solution offering and its comprehensive portfolio of excipients, including Klucel HPC; Benecel™ methylcellulose and hypromellose; Plasdone™ povidone and copovidone; Polyplasdone™ crospovidone; AquaSolve hypromellose and acetate succinate; Aquarius™ film coatings systems and more, visit Ashland at CPhI, Stand 4D80, October 4-6, Fira de Barcelona Gran Via, Barcelona, Spain.

About Ashland
Ashland Global Holdings Inc. (NYSE: ASH) is a premier, global specialty chemicals company serving customers in a wide range of consumer and industrial markets, including adhesives, architectural coatings, automotive, construction, energy, food and beverage, personal care and pharmaceutical. At Ashland, we are more than 5,000 passionate, tenacious solvers – from renowned scientists and research chemists to talented engineers and plant operators – who thrive on developing practical, innovative and elegant solutions to complex problems for customers in more than 100 countries. Ashland also maintains a controlling interest in Valvoline Inc. (NYSE: VVV), a premium consumer-branded lubricant supplier. Visit ashland.com to learn more.

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