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Ashland's new RIT certifications create one of the largest coatings selections available for use with HP Indigo digital presses

DUBLIN, OH – Ashland Specialty Ingredients, a commercial unit of Ashland Inc. (NYSE: ASH), has obtained certification by the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) for 13 ultraviolet (UV) and water-based overprint varnishes within the PureRad™ and PureKote™ overprint varnish (OPV), product lines. The products are now commercially available for use with Hewlett Packard (HP) Indigo narrow web printing presses.

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PureRad and PureKote overprint varnishes offer improved adhesion to HP Indigo ink coupled with high-performance scratch and chemical resistance. The commercial offering includes two new products, PureRad 53830 high-gloss, heat-resistant OPV and PureRad 53860A high-gloss UV resistant OPV.

"Ashland offers one of the broadest array of RIT-certified overprint varnishes for use with HP Indigo to meet the increasing manufacturing and application demands for digital printing and mass customization," said David Hatgas, global director, Packaging and Converting, Performance Materials.

The RIT/HP Indigo overprint varnish performance program enables manufacturers, suppliers and HP Indigo digital press owners to have both water-base and UV coatings evaluated with HP Indigo digital certified media.

For more information about Ashland's digital printing products, please e-mail PMamericasales@ashland.com or phone 866-514-8898.

About Ashland Specialty Ingredients

Ashland Specialty Ingredients is the #1 global producer of cellulose ethers and a global leader in vinyl pyrrolidones. It offers industry-leading products, technologies and resources for solving formulation and product-performance challenges. Using natural, synthetic and semisynthetic polymers derived from plant and seed extract, cellulose ethers and vinyl pyrrolidones, as well as acrylic and polyurethane-based adhesives, Specialty Ingredients offers comprehensive and innovative solutions for today's demanding consumer and industrial applications. Key customers include: pharmaceutical companies; makers of personal care products, food and beverages; manufacturers of paint, coatings and construction materials; packaging and converting; and oilfield service companies. Visit ashland.com to learn more.

About Ashland Inc.

Ashland Inc. (NYSE: ASH) is a global leader in providing specialty chemical solutions to customers in a wide range of consumer and industrial markets, including architectural coatings, automotive, construction, energy, food and beverage, personal care and pharmaceutical. Through our three commercial units – Ashland Specialty Ingredients, Ashland Performance Materials and Valvoline – we use good chemistry to make great things happen for customers in more than 100 countries. Visit ashland.com to learn more.

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