

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Ashland's New MAXGUARD® NCP  
series gelcoat introduced at IBEX**

DUBLIN, Ohio – A new gelcoat formulation that delivers a higher level of weathering performance was introduced at the International Boatbuilders Exposition (IBEX) in Miami Beach, Fla., today by Ashland Performance Materials, a division of Ashland Inc. (NYSE: ASH). Comparison tests show that Ashland's MAXGUARD® NCP series gelcoats retain their gloss longer than typical marine gelcoats.

In addition to weathering capabilities, MAXGUARD NCP series gelcoats also deliver extended resistance against blistering when evaluated among other low hazardous air pollutant (HAP) gelcoats. "Our patent-pending gelcoat technology provides professional boatbuilders with rich, weather- and blush-resistant colors that not only look great on finished parts, but also are easy for boatbuilders to use," said Mike Wallenhorst, global marine market manager for Ashland Performance Materials.

MAXGUARD NCP series gelcoats are compliant with Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) limits under U.S. EPA regulations for boat manufacturing, and they exhibit the same excellent crack-resistant properties that MAXGUARD gelcoats have provided boatbuilders for many years. "With our new formulation, professional boatbuilders will experience true nautical color performance (NCP) when using deep, rich colors. This is something our customers have wanted for many years, and Ashland is very happy to provide this much-needed technology," added Wallenhorst.

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**Ashland's New MAXGUARD® NCP series gelcoat introduced at IBEX p. 2**

Ashland Performance Materials is a worldwide manufacturer and supplier of specialty chemicals and customized services to the building and construction, packaging and converting, transportation, marine and metal casting industries. It is a technology leader in metal casting consumables and design services; unsaturated polyester and vinyl ester resins and gelcoats; and high-performance adhesives and specialty resins.

Ashland Inc. (NYSE: ASH), a diversified, global chemical company, provides quality products, services and solutions to customers in more than 100 countries. A FORTUNE 500 company, it operates through four divisions: Ashland Performance Materials, Ashland Distribution, Valvoline and Ashland Water Technologies. To learn more about Ashland, visit [www.ashland.com](http://www.ashland.com).

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