



Ashland Launches PLIOGRIP(R) by Valvoline Body Repair System for Collision Repair Industry

DUBLIN, Ohio, Jan. 9 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- For more than 30 years, adhesive and bonding solutions from Ashland Inc. (NYSE: ASH) have been the technology of choice for the world's leading automotive original equipment manufacturers (OEMs). Now, this technology will be available to the collision repair industry with the launch of the PLIOGRIP® by Valvoline body repair system from Ashland.

(Logo: <http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20040113/ASHLANDLOGO>)

PLIOGRIP by Valvoline products utilize urethane, epoxy and MS Polymer technologies, and are comprised of 17 core products segmented into four groups: SMC Repair, Panel Bonding, Plastic Repair and Sealers & Foams.

Combining the innovative technology and engineering of Ashland Specialty Chemical with Valvoline's 130-years of experience in the transportation industry, PLIOGRIP by Valvoline products deliver unmatched performance in both bonding and repair to today's body shop professionals.

"We've leveraged our capabilities across the divisions that make up Ashland's Chemical Sector to manufacture, market and distribute a complete product line that sets a new standard for performance in the collision repair industry," said Gary A. Cappeline, president and chief operating officer of the Chemical Sector of Ashland Inc.

Specifically engineered to return automobiles to their pre-accident condition, the PLIOGRIP by Valvoline products provide better workability, reduced repair times and superior structural strength - critical requirements of body shop professionals.

"Our PLIOGRIP adhesives have been the OEM standard in transportation for high-performance structural bonding for more than three decades," said Marcello Boldrini, vice president, Ashland Specialty Chemical, and general manager, Specialty Polymers & Adhesives. "PLIOGRIP by Valvoline is a user-friendly system that has multiple competitive advantages including faster cure times and excellent finishing qualities."

Products will be made available to body shop professionals through paint jobbers and distributors throughout the United States and Canada. For more information on the PLIOGRIP by Valvoline body repair system from Ashland, please visit www.pliogripbyvalvoline.com or call 1-800-PLIOGRIP.

Ashland Specialty Polymers & Adhesives, a business group of Ashland Specialty Chemical is a global leader in the pressure sensitive and structural adhesives for packaging and converting, building and construction, and transportation.

Ashland Specialty Chemical, a division of Ashland Inc., is a leading, worldwide supplier of specialty chemicals serving industries including adhesives, automotive, composites, metal casting, merchant marine, paint, paper, plastics, watercraft and water treatment. Visit www.ashspec.com to learn more about these operations.

Ashland Inc. (NYSE: ASH) is a Fortune 500 chemical and transportation construction company providing products, services and customer solutions throughout the world. To learn more about Ashland, visit www.ashland.com.

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