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## **Ashland opens new technical center in Shanghai, reinforcing its commitment to delivering innovative solutions to customers in China**

Shanghai, China - Ashland Specialty Ingredients, a commercial unit of Ashland Inc. (NYSE: ASH), today announced the opening of a new technical center in Shanghai, reinforcing its commitment to developing innovative solutions to consumer-goods customers in industries such as personal care, pharmaceutical, food and beverage.

The new technical center, housing state-of-the-art laboratory facilities for research and development (R&D), application technology and services, is located in Caohejing Industrial Park in Shanghai. With the opening of the Shanghai technical center, Specialty Ingredients now operates 22 R&D and technical centers around the world. These facilities will play a key role in helping Specialty Ingredients achieve its long-term goal of deriving 25 percent of annual sales from products introduced in the past five years.

"The new Shanghai technical center represents our continued investment in China and strengthens our focus on delivering tailor-made solutions to our customers throughout the region," said John Panichella, Ashland senior vice president and group operating officer, and president of Ashland Specialty Ingredients. "At Ashland, we believe that with good chemistry, great things happen. With our expanded network of technical centers around the world, we are helping customers create new and improved products for today and sustainable solutions for tomorrow."

The Shanghai technical center brings together personal care, pharmaceutical, and food and beverage application and development centers for China region. More than 25 chemists and technical service professionals are working in the center. In personal care sector, Ashland offers an extensive range of biofunctional ingredients and functional polymers to deliver the most advanced performance properties for hair, skin and oral care products. In pharmaceuticals, Ashland focuses on the products and services for solubilization in addition to excipients and tablet coating systems for formulation development. Also, the lab is specialized in development of cellulosic food ingredients. Ashland's stabilizers and gums are recognized throughout the world for quality, consistency and performance.

"China is an important growth market for Ashland, and this new technical center marks another milestone in our ability to meet our customers' needs for technical expertise and innovation," added Nandkumar Dhekne, vice president, Asia Pacific, Ashland Specialty Ingredients.

### **About Ashland Specialty Ingredients**

Ashland Specialty Ingredients offers industry-leading products, technologies and resources for solving formulation and product performance challenges in key markets including personal care, pharmaceutical, food and beverage, coatings and energy. Using natural, synthetic and semi-synthetic polymers derived from plant and seed extract, cellulose ethers and vinyl pyrrolidones, Ashland Specialty Ingredients offers comprehensive and innovative solutions for today's demanding consumer and industrial applications.

### **About Ashland Inc.**

In more than 100 countries, the people of Ashland Inc. (NYSE: ASH) provide the specialty chemicals, technologies and insights to help customers create new and improved products for today and sustainable solutions for tomorrow. Our chemistry is at work every day in a wide variety of markets and applications, including architectural coatings, automotive, construction, energy, food and beverage, personal care, pharmaceutical, tissue and towel, and water treatment. Visit [ashland.com](http://ashland.com) to see the innovations we offer through our four commercial units - Ashland Specialty Ingredients, Ashland Water Technologies, Ashland Performance Materials and Ashland Consumer Markets.

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