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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Ashland expands Benecel®  
hypromellose production**

WILMINGTON, Del. – Ashland Aqualon Functional Ingredients (AAFI), a commercial unit of Ashland Inc. (NYSE: ASH), has recently expanded Benecel® hypromellose capacity at its Doel, Belgium, facility.

Increases in customer demand for Benecel hypromellose, and the Aquarius® coating systems product line, led Ashland to boost capacity. The expansion is dedicated to low-viscosity grades of Benecel hypromellose, including the E3, E5, and E6 viscosity grades. These grades are widely used for tablet coating, granulation, and vegetarian capsule production.

According to Jeff Wolff, AAFI's Regulated Industries vice president, "This investment demonstrates our continued commitment to the pharmaceutical and nutritional supplement industries. The success of Aquarius coating systems, which use Benecel hypromellose as a key ingredient, was the driver for the investment. This new capacity further solidifies our low-cost position for tablet coatings."

People interested in learning more about Benecel hypromellose should contact Micah Sobus, new products manager, at mjsobus@ashland.com or by calling, (302) 995-3145.

Ashland Aqualon Functional Ingredients is the number two producer of cellulose ethers worldwide and the world's only producer of refined wood rosin. It provides specialty additives and functional ingredients that manage the physical properties of aqueous and non-aqueous systems. Many of its products – used in construction, food,

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personal care, pharmaceuticals, oil field production and paints – are derived from renewable and natural raw materials and perform in a wide variety of applications.

Ashland Inc. (NYSE: ASH) provides specialty chemical products, services and solutions for many of the world's most essential needs and industries. Serving customers in more than 100 countries, it operates through five commercial units: Ashland Aqualon Functional Ingredients, Ashland Hercules Water Technologies, Ashland Performance Materials, Ashland Consumer Markets (Valvoline) and Ashland Distribution. To learn more about Ashland, visit [www.ashland.com](http://www.ashland.com).

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