



At NPE 2009 Milliken Showcases Additive Technologies for PP for Improved Aesthetics, Cost, Performance and Sustainability

CHICAGO – June 22, 2009 – Consumers, retailers and manufacturers alike are taking a hard look at traditional product packaging to increase sustainability and reduce costs. At NPE 2009, Milliken Chemical, a division of Milliken & Company, is showing how polypropylene (PP) clarified with Millad[®] NX8000 can achieve both goals. At booth 54055 in the South Building, Milliken is exhibiting a wide range of distinctive packaging and durable storage applications made from their Millad NX8000-clarified PP, which offers a more cost-effective, lighter and more easily recycled replacement for other plastics and glass. The company is also featuring other environmentally beneficial innovations for PP enhancement, including its Hyperform nucleating agents and its family of ClearTint[®] colorants.

“Clarified polypropylene is an ideal solution for today’s concerns about reducing the environmental impact of packaging – without compromising aesthetics or performance,” said Jean Hall, business manager, Milliken & Company. “Our Millad technology supports sustainability by broadening the potential applications of PP, which is compatible with established recycling systems and also requires less resin due to lower density. And our Hyperform nucleating agents make it easier to recycle resins by removing processing variables in the waste stream. We are proud of our longstanding commitment to excellence in environmental responsibility.”

Highlights of the Milliken exhibit include:

- Millad NX8000 clarifier provides a step change in haze reduction compared to the industry standard, enabling PP to deliver clarity approaching that of polycarbonate (PC) while avoiding many of its drawbacks. PP clarified with Millad NX8000 also delivers excellent material strength and rigidity, and excellent heat and chemical resistance. Biphenol (BPA) is not used in the manufacture of clarified PP. Applications on display at the Milliken booth include shampoo bottles, food storage containers, cosmetic jars, water pitchers, storage totes, baby bottles, five-gallon water storage bottles and even some small appliances produced with PP.
- Hyperform nucleating agents streamline the PP recycling process by limiting variability in recycled material and regrind, thus allowing faster and more consistent processing. Hyperform agents also promote isotropic shrinkage, which reduces warpage and increases part quality. Applications on display include storage containers, media packaging, closures, drinking cups, clothes hangers, and film.
- ClearTint colorants are specifically designed for use in PP clarified with Millad agents. They are engineered to avoid interference with clarity, and provide the brightest, most transparent colors possible. ClearTint colorants are oligomeric coloring materials which combine the exceptional aesthetics of dyes with the migration resistance of pigments. Many of the items on display at the booth that use Milliken’s Millad NX8000 also utilize the company’s ClearTint colorants including food storage containers, water pitchers, baby bottles, TWIM packaging containers, drinking cups, bottles for personal care products, and many other unique items.

Optimal Clarity for Great-looking Consumer Products

By enabling a typical 50 percent reduction in haze compared to the current industry standard, Millad NX8000 enables PP to provide optimal clarity. The aesthetics of the resin can be further enhanced with Milliken's ClearTint colorants, which add dramatic effects and rich color without impacting transparency. The results are beautiful and cost-effective packages and containers, such as the Reynolds Casuals storage containers also on display at the Milliken booth.

The clarity and beautiful aesthetics of Millad NX8000-clarified PP are exemplified in Milliken's entry in the NPE 2009 International Design Competition – a clear injection molded cutlery tray from Guzzini. Clarified PP was chosen over styrene acrylonitrile (SAN) on the basis of lower cost and improved impact resistance for better durability while maintaining exceptional clarity. Guzzini is an Italian company that produces everyday items featuring attention to style, quality and functionality.

While at NPE, Brian Burkhart, global marketing manager for Millad, is giving a presentation on the aesthetic benefits of clarifying PP with Millad NX8000. His presentation is scheduled for June 25 at 10:30 in the west hall, level 1, in room W196C.

Milliken's Heritage of Sustainability

Milliken & Company has taken a multi-pronged approach to environmental protection. Since 1991, the company has reduced water usage by 50 percent, and its hydroelectric plants provide local communities with energy from renewable sources. The Milliken headquarters campus in Spartanburg, S.C. is a nationally acclaimed arboretum, and the company plants more than a million trees each year on its own land. Milliken is also a founding member of the U.S. Green Building Council.

About Milliken Chemical

Based in Spartanburg, S.C., USA, Milliken & Company is one of the world's largest privately held textile and chemical corporations. Milliken Chemical, a division of Milliken & Company, specializes in developing and producing additives for plastics, textiles, fibers, and other manufacturing processes. Milliken Chemical has application and development centers around the world to support their customers.

For more information about Milliken Chemical, please visit www.millikenchemical.com.

###

Millad, ClearTint, and Hyperform are registered trademarks of Milliken & Company.