

Exxon, Dow and Univation Settle Metallocene Catalyst Patent Disputes

(HOUSTON, TEXAS and MIDLAND, MICHIGAN) June 16, 1999 -Exxon Corporation, The Dow Chemical Company, and Univation Technologies today announced the settlement of various intellectual property disputes between the companies and their affiliates, relating to metallocene catalyst systems used to produce polyolefins and their end-use applications, including those that incorporate controlled long-chain branching.

The confidential agreement settles litigation and other disputes between Exxon and Dow in the United States, Germany, Holland and the United Kingdom as well as between Univation and Dow in the United States. The agreement includes alternatives to litigation for resolution of future patent disputes, and the licensing of certain patent rights. Exxon, Dow and Univation can each extend these rights to their customers.

"Exxon believes this settlement agreement will be good for customers of metallocene technology-based products by reducing uncertainty and encouraging them to expand commercialization," said James P. Harris, Exxon Chemical's Polymers senior vice president.

"Extensive litigation has placed a cloud over this breakthrough technology. With the cloud removed from Dow and Exxon's metallocene-related patents, the full benefit of this technology can immediately impact the marketplace," said Edwin F. Gambrell, Dow global vice president, INSITE Technology.

"This settlement will allow Univation to focus on continuing to expand the frontiers of this rich technology which is revolutionizing the plastics industry," added Gregory L. McPike, CEO and president of Univation Technologies.

Metallocene catalysts extend the application range for which polyolefins can be used and the resins made from them offer attractive economic benefits and property advantages to converters and end-users, such as toughness, puncture-resistance, purity and clarity. They allow improved control of polymer structure during polymerization and excellent comonomer incorporation.

Exxon utilizes EXXPOL** metallocene technology to manufacture EXCEED** polyethylene, EXACT** Plastomers, and ACHIEVE** Propylene Polymers. Affiliates covered by the settlement agreement include Dex-Plastomers, a joint venture with DSM, and Univation Technologies. Access to Exxon's EXXPOL** metallocene technology inventions is available through Exxon Chemical Company and for polyethylene through Univation Technologies, the Exxon Chemical and Union Carbide polyethylene technology and licensing joint venture. Exxon Chemical Company is a division of Exxon Corporation.

Dow Chemical utilizes INSITE* Technology to manufacture AFFINITY* polyolefin plastomer, ELITE* enhanced polyethylene resins, and INDEX* Interpolymers. DuPont Dow Elastomers, a joint venture with DuPont, utilizes INSITE* Technology to manufacture ENGAGE† polyolefin elastomers and NORDEL† IP hydrocarbon rubbers. Access to Dow's INSITE* Technology, including controlled long chain branching, is available through The Dow Chemical Company.