Exxon Chemical Awarded Key Metallocene Patent in Japan

HOUSTON, Texas (February 25, 1998) -- Exxon Chemical Company, a division of Exxon Corporation, was notified by the Japanese Patent Office that it will be awarded a major patent covering EXXPOL® metallocene catalyst systems. The imminent grant of Japanese Patent Application 59-116342, is viewed as further validation of the fundamental Exxon Chemical discovery, considered to be the cornerstone of commercially viable metallocene catalyst systems. Prior to this notification, equivalent patents had already been granted to Exxon in the United States, most major European countries, and many developing areas of the world.

The patent covers a wide variety of substituted metallocene compounds that have been shown to be the only commercially-viable metallocenes, activated by alumoxanes. It has become one of the world's most widely cited applications in the metallocene patent literature.

"Exxon's patent will cover broad and commercially significant fundamental inventions in the field of metallocene chemistry," said Dr. Douglas M. Selman, Exxon Chemical's vice president of Polymer Technology. "We intend to exploit and protect our rights regarding this patent in Japan and wherever necessary, " he added.

Catalyst systems utilizing this and corresponding Exxon patents represent the commercialization route being pursued by most polyolefin producers with an interest in metallocene-based resins, according to published patent literature. Access to Exxon's metallocene inventions is available through Exxon Chemical Company, and for PE through Univation Technologies, the Exxon Chemical and Union Carbide polyethylene licensing joint venture.

"We expect producers with an interest in providing metallocene-based products to their customers to have a great interest in obtaining a license so that they can practice their own or our metallocene developments," said Gregory L. McPike, Univation's CEO and president.

The metallocene catalyst systems extend the application range in which polyolefins can be used and the resins made from them offer attractive economic benefits and property advantages to converters and end-users. They allow improved control of polymer structure during polymerization, excellent comonomer incorporation and greater process flexibility.

# # #

Exxon Chemical utilizes EXXPOL metallocene technology to manufacture ethylene-based EXACT Plastomers and EXCEED mLLDPE; and ACHIEVE propylene polymers.