Rio Polimeros Licenses UNIPOL And EXXPOL Technologies
Brazilian company will be first to license metallocene technology in Latin America

HOUSTON, Texas (February 10, 1998) -- Univation Technologies today confirmed that Rio Polimeros of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil has selected the UNIPOL Polyethylene (PE) Process and EXXPOL metallocene catalysts for its new two-line, 500,000 metric tons-per-year PE plant, scheduled for start-up in 2001. The facility, to be located at Duque de Caxias, will be integrated into a new petrochemical complex and will produce a full line of conventional polyethylenes, the world's most widely-used plastic, and the latest plastics based on metallocene technology. EXXPOL metallocenes are new "smart" catalysts that provide better manufacturing control of plastic properties. Typical uses for polyethylene, include diapers, shopping bags, can liners, cable covering, courier pouches, stretch film, heavy-duty shipping sacks, molded containers, and flexible film for food packaging.

"Our selection of the UNIPOL Process, which we believe is the most advanced PE manufacturing technology, was made easy when we recognized the additional benefits of EXXPOL metallocene catalysts," said Roberto Villa, Rio Polimeros' managing director. "We learned that we don't need to manufacture our products using a different, more expensive method to get good processability," he added. "EXXPOL catalysts used in the UNIPOL Process will produce PE resins that process easily, but are much better. Thus, we are able to significantly reduce our capital investment."

Other factors cited by Mr. Villa as reasons for choosing the UNIPOL Process were its capability to use various catalysts to make a wide variety of polyethylenes, UNIPOL's lowest investment and operating costs, and Univation's engineering and manufacturing services.

"The broad conventional product capabilities of UNIPOL, coupled with EXXPOL metallocene technology, will provide Rio Polimeros with the ability to meet the growing needs of the Latin American market," said Gregory L. McPike, Univation's CEO and president. "The Rio Polimeros team did a very thorough job of evaluating the available technologies, and their carefully-considered choice allows them to be at the forefront of PE technology now and in the future," he added.

. The Rio Polimeros contract includes design support, construction and technical consultation, training of all phases of operations and marketing, and access to Univation's product knowledge and technology advances.

Rio Polimeros is owned equally by Brazilian companies Unipar-Uniao de Industrias Petroquimicas SA, Cia. Suzano Papel e Celulose, and Marianni.

There are currently 80 UNIPOL PE manufacturing lines in operation in more than 20 nations worldwide with annual operating capacities exceeding 10 million metric tons. Univation Technologies, a technology and licensing joint venture between Union Carbide and Exxon Chemical, offers the UNIPOL Process and EXXPOL metallocene catalysts as fundamental parts of its comprehensive licensing package.

# # # #