FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
April 28, 2009

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Soarus L.L.C. Introduces New Nichigo G-Polymer™ Biodegradable, Water Soluble, Extrudable, High Barrier

Co-Extrudable Grade Offers Biodegradable High Barrier for Packaging
Water Solubility for Films, Fibers, and Coatings
Water Solutions for Emulsions and Dispersions

Arlington Heights, IL – Soarus, LLC introduces "Nichigo G-Polymer™", a unique multi-functional barrier and water solution polymer developed by its parent company, Nippon Gohsei of Japan. Unique properties of Nichigo G-Polymer™ include:

1. Biodegradability
2. Water solubility at room temperature
3. Non-foaming when dissolved in water
4. Outstanding gas barrier (200X better oxygen barrier dry versus EVOH)
5. High clarity
6. Extrudability with wide melt temperature processing window
7. In water solution:
    A. Chemical reactivity - receptive to crosslinking agents
    B. Protective colloid for acrylic emulsions
    C. Dispersing agent for inorganic materials
8. Polymer design flexibility to meet specific application needs

Nichigo G-Polymer™ is a totally new high amorphous content vinyl alcohol resin where crystallinity can be tailored down to the point of total amorphous character. Nichigo G-Polymer™ combines two typically traded-off functions; although it may be an amorphous resin, it also has crystalline-like functions. Such combination functions are evidenced by the excellent gas barrier properties and good chemical resistance of Nichigo G-Polymer™ similar to PVOH (polyvinyl alcohol) and EVOH (ethylene vinyl alcohol copolymer) resins, along with surprisingly excellent water solubility and far lower crystallinity.

Nichigo G-Polymer™ also has superior extrusion properties, orientability, shrinkability and transparency. It can be used in all extrusion processes. It is particularly suited for processes such as melt-spinning, oriented film, transparent containers, injection molding and more. And because it is biocompostable, it lends itself to a variety of applications such as new packaging materials that are environmentally friendly.

Not only does it have excellent oxygen barrier but the highest level of hydrogen barrier. It therefore has potential use in household power fuel cell systems and fuel-cell powered cars, hydrogen gas stations, and the like.

Nichigo G-Polymer™, when used in combination with other resins in applications such as bicomponent fibers, nonwoven fabrics, filters, polymer alloys, and multi-layer films, makes possible the development of high-strength, flexible, antistatic, and hydrophilic functional products.

Another unique characteristic of Nichigo G-Polymer™ is water solubility. It dissolves very rapidly in water, even cold water. It has superior solubility characteristics, which include low foaming and good viscosity stability at low temperatures. Furthermore, its impact on the environment is minimal, being that it is biodegradable, it does not require antifoaming agent, and it results in increased operating and energy efficiency. This excellent water solubility property of Nichigo G-Polymer™ paves the way for its use in applications such as water soluble films, fibers, and coatings.

Because Nichigo G-Polymer™ is a reactive vinyl alcohol polymer, chemical reactions such as acetalization, urethane formation, and others take place with ease, making possible functional products with extremely uniform quality and structure.

Another valuable application for Nichigo G-Polymer™ is its use as a functional polymer protective colloid agent in emulsion polymerization of various acrylic emulsions. With Nichigo G-Polymer™ it is possible to manufacture emulsions with good stability and stable viscosity at low temperatures. This allows the creation of surfactant-free acrylic emulsions and emulsion powders, which until now have been difficult to achieve. The functionality of Nichigo G-Polymer™ makes possible the crosslinking of films produced from such emulsions, as well as improves the adhesion properties to various polar substrates such as cellulose. Such acrylic emulsions and emulsion powders are already being manufactured and sold by Nippon Gohsei.

Finally, Nichigo G-Polymer™ has the exceptional ability to improve the dispersion and stability of inorganic compounds in water systems. Therefore it has applicability as a sintered binder and coating agent for silica, aluminazol, and other inorganic compounds used in the manufacture of electronic parts and inkjet papers.

With all of these multi-functional, high performance characteristics, Nichigo G-Polymer™ opens the door to a wide range of application development.

The initial grades in the G-Polymer™ product line have been established. A suitable candidate grade for individual applications can be identified by contacting Soarus.

Nippon Gohsei has set up a semi commercial facility at its Kumamoto plant (Uto City, Kumamoto JAPAN) for annual production of 300 tons in 2009. There are also commercial production facilities for 2000 tons per year, to be ready in 2009 at its Kumamoto and Mizushima (Kurashiki city, Okayama JAPAN) plants. Nippon Gohsei is also considering expanded production capability including USA production sites.

Please refer to http://www.g-polymer.com for detailed information on Nichigo G-Polymer ™.

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About Soarus, LLC

Soarus, LLC is the North American technical and marketing affiliate for Nippon Gohsei's Soarnol® EVOH, which is used in food packaging, automotive and industrial markets. Soarus is headquartered outside of Chicago in Arlington Heights, IL. Soarus also handles other specialty materials from Nippon Gohsei such as G-Soarnol® and G-Polymer™. For more details please visit the website at www.soarus.com. Soarus LLC has a sister company, MSI Technology (www.msitechnology.com), that markets specialty co-extrusion materials, such as Plexar® tie layer adhesives produced by Equistar Chemicals, peelable sealants for easy peel applications, and PolyPurge® purge compound.

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