

Advanced Elastomer Systems, L.P.
388 South Main Street
Akron, Ohio 44311-1065
330-849-5000 Telephone
330-849-5599 Facsimile
www.santoprene.com

Santoprene™

News Release

SANTOPRENE TPVs CONTINUE TO DRIVE FORWARD IN THE AUTOMOTIVE WEATHERSEALS MARKET

AKRON, Ohio (October 20, 2004) – Having led development for thermoplastic vulcanizates (TPVs) over the past 20 years, Advanced Elastomer Systems, an affiliate of ExxonMobil Chemical, continues to invest resources to meet a growing need for Santoprene TPVs in automotive weatherseals applications. This year, new products, technology developments, application support capabilities and expanded facilities for the growing market in Asia mark the organization's continuing development and support of the expanding use of TPVs in weatherseal systems.

Juergen Gloeckler, global weatherseals manager, for Santoprene products said: "We understand from OEMs in North America, Europe, Japan, and South Korea that there is a significant trend towards the increased use of TPVs in automotive weathersealing systems. This trend, coupled with our ongoing applications success gives us the confidence to continue our drive into this market and invest in new capabilities to meet our customers' needs."

In response to the strong market need in using TPVs for solid dynamic applications, a key focus area has been the development of weatherseals with co-extruded slip coatings. The organization has introduced a new, low friction coating material for this market segment. In addition to its commitment to develop new Santoprene products, AES has strengthened its application development capabilities to offer customers a full system solution. To accommodate this advance, the company has installed a unique test device for prototype benchmarking and product application development. The test unit is comprised of a car door assembly with measurement devices to simulate the application performance of slip coatings in fleet conditions.

-more-

Other important market areas are new Santoprene TPVs for molded applications. The strong market need to combine excellent thermoplastic processing properties with attributes like good adhesion to EPDM thermoset rubber profiles has led to the development of a new grade of Santoprene TPV for use in corner moldings, muckets and end caps. With more than 10 years of success in glass encapsulation applications, new Santoprene products are under development to advance this application area as well.

New Santoprene TPV product development and focused application development only bring part of the solution to the complex automotive weatherseal systems. Dynamic foam/sponge door seal systems are considered to be among the most complex weatherseal systems. Applications for Santoprene TPV are expanding here with longer-term innovation work. Under a long term exclusive license agreement with Trexel Inc. of Woburn, Massachusetts in the United States, Santoprene TPV products will continue to be developed to take full advantage of Trexel's Mucell® microcellular foam process.

In anticipation of the increased demand for enhanced application support in Asia, AES is expanding its Japanese laboratory with the installation of a multi-purpose 60mm extrusion line for TPVs. The line will be capable of running solid or foamed profile systems using different foaming methods and co-extrusions. This enhances similar capability which the organization has used for weatherseal application development in its Akron, Ohio laboratory for 20 years.

Zev Gurion, Global Automotive Marketing manager, said: "The expansion of our laboratory capability in Asia will provide us with an excellent opportunity to improve the application support to this highly demanding, innovative market which now clearly favors TPVs for weatherseals."

The global presence of AES and its flagship TPV product, Santoprene TPV, in the weatherseals market results from more than 20 years of continuous improvement in product performance and application knowledge. The complimentary broad range of ExxonMobil Chemical's elastomer products, the organization's polymer knowledge, its global resources to provide technical support and exceptional track record provide an added stimulus and confidence to succeed in this highly demanding application sector.

-more-

About Advanced Elastomer Systems, L.P. (AES)

With head offices in Akron, Ohio, AES is an affiliate of ExxonMobil Chemical Company, a division of Exxon Mobil Corporation. AES is the worldwide leader in engineered TPVs, materials with the performance and aesthetics of rubber, and the processing ease of plastic. The company's flagship product Santoprene™ TPV is a recyclable elastomer commonly used in the appliance, automotive, construction, consumer goods, electrical, fluid delivery, grips, medical and packaging industries. ExxonMobil Chemical is a global leader in plastics technology, product quality and customer service with marketing operations in more than 150 countries around the world. For more information visit www.santoprene.com and www.exxonmobilchemical.com.

Note to Editors:

1. Santoprene is a trademark of Advanced Elastomer Systems, L.P., Akron, Ohio.
2. The term "ExxonMobil Chemical" refers collectively to some or all of the companies affiliated with Exxon Mobil Corporation which have chemical manufacturing and/or marketing operations around the world.
3. To receive immediate e-mail notification of new AES press releases, please go to www.santoprene.com, click the "News and Events" dropdown bar, select "Keep Me Informed," and "Register." Further information on engineered thermoplastic vulcanizates can be obtained from this Web site.

Editorial contact information for Advanced Elastomer Systems, L.P.:

Global:	Brian McGuire	+1.330.849.5120	brian.mcguire@santoprene.com
Europe, Middle East, Africa:	Anita Neefs	+32.2.706.3404	anita.neefs@santoprene.com
Japan:	Yuko Tajima	+81.3.3506.6422	yuko.tajima@santoprene.com
Asia-Pacific:	Jack Tan	+65.663.6730	jack.sj.tan@exxonmobil.com

#