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## **Total Petrochemicals USA, Inc. introduces new, improved high flow crystal polystyrene resin for cutlery and tumbler applications**

### *Offering Injection Molders a Stronger End-Use Product*

HOUSTON, Texas – (October 8, 2007) – Total Petrochemicals USA, Inc. introduces the new and improved high flow general-purpose crystal polystyrene resin Total Petrochemicals Polystyrene CX5232, which has improved stiffness in comparison to standard general purpose polystyrene materials.

CX5232 is designed for cutlery, tumbler and similar high-speed injection molding applications or extrusion capping and blending applications. Compared with standard general-purpose polystyrene, CX5232 has better flexural and tensile strength and higher Vicat temperature.

“Improved finished part properties with CX5232 not only enhance performance, but also allows the injection molder the potential to reduce part weight,” said Polystyrene Technical Services Advisor John Gaustad.

The molecular architecture of CX5232 improves finished part performance in comparison to standard materials. Benefits include better part strength and performance, enhanced part functionality, reduced cycle time and ease of processing and product switch.

“CX5232 is an excellent drop-in resin for standard high flow GPPS resins and requires minimal changes to injection molding conditions,” said Gaustad. “Better start-ups are the norm.”



Total Petrochemicals encompasses petrochemicals activities of Total, the fourth largest oil company worldwide. Its business includes base petrochemicals from steam crackers and certain refinery processing plants – olefins (ethylene, propylene), C<sub>4</sub> fractions and aromatics (benzene, toluene, xylenes and styrene) – as well as the commodity polymers they derived from (polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene and elastomers). Total Petrochemicals employs 7,500 people in Europe, the United States, the Middle East and Asia. Its products are used in many consumer and industrial markets, including Packaging, Construction and Automotive.

Total Petrochemicals USA's Research and Technology Center in Houston developed the improved resin technology.

Phil Carruthers, Vice President of Styrenics, said, "CX5232 is another example of our continuing efforts to work with customers to develop the next generation of polystyrene products. Our state-of-the-art Polystyrene Pilot Plant at the Research and Technology Center in Houston provides a key technology bridge between research and manufacturing."

The new resin is produced at the company's Carville, Louisiana styrenics complex, which is the largest in the world.

For more information about Total Petrochemicals USA CX5232, contact our Technical Service team at 281-884-7500 or visit our web site at <http://www.totalpetrochemicalsusa.com>.

Total Petrochemicals USA, Inc. is headquartered in Houston and produces polypropylene, polyethylene, polystyrene, styrene, base chemicals and transportation fuels. With sales of \$9.8 billion in 2006, the company employs about 1,700 people in the U.S. and has manufacturing facilities in Texas and Louisiana as well as a research and technology facility in La Porte, Texas and a refinery in Port Arthur, Texas.

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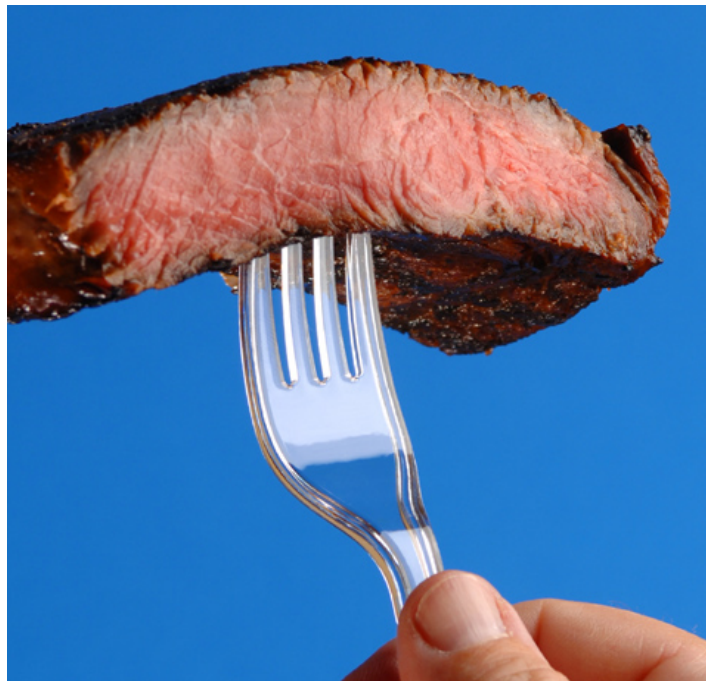


**Cutting a steak with plastic cutlery** won't be a problem with Total Petrochemicals USA CX5232, which provides improved stiffness in comparison to standard general-purpose polystyrene materials.

For more information, please visit <http://totalpetrochemicalsusa.com>.

**Strong enough to pick up a steak** is a simple demonstration of the better flexural and tensile strength of Total Petrochemicals USA CX5232 when compared with standard general-purpose polystyrene materials.

For more information, please visit <http://totalpetrochemicalsusa.com>.



Download the news release and photographs at <http://www.totalpetrochemicalsusa.com>.