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DuPont Packaging Improves Bio-based and Biodegradable Packaging
DuPont Leverages Expertise in Polymer Modification to Develop Biomax[®] Strong

WILMINGTON, Del., Aug. 31, 2006 – Bio-based and biodegradable packaging just got better. DuPont Packaging today launched commercial availability of DuPont™ Biomax[®] Strong, an additive that improves the performance of bio-based, biodegradable polylactic acid (PLA) packaging.

Considered a sustainable alternative to petrochemical-derived products, polylactic acid (PLA) is derived from the fermentation of agricultural products. Bio-based and biodegradable, PLA has held strong appeal among the packaging industry for select industrial applications, which view the strong benefits and consumer demand of offering environmentally friendly packaging. PLA's attractiveness as a sustainable alternative is enhanced by the capability of the material to be composted in industrial facilities. However, despite its strong attributes and allure, packaging and industrial products made of PLA have been hindered by performance deficiencies that include brittleness and decreased durability when compared to the competing petroleum derived plastics.

Leveraging the company's expertise in polymer modification, DuPont developed Biomax[®] Strong, a petrochemical additive that improves the toughness and reduces the brittleness of PLA materials. Biomax[®] Strong enhances the impact strength, flexibility and melt stability of PLA – greatly improving the performance attributes of the polymer – particularly when used in rigid applications like cast sheets for thermoforming and injection molding. When used at the recommended levels, between one to five percent of weight, Biomax[®] Strong outperforms competing products with improved toughness and minimal impact on transparency.

“The transparency aspects give us a strong competitive position versus other tougheners currently being tried. Biomax[®] Strong has good contact clarity at the recommended levels and provides a much clearer container than other alternatives,” said Shanna Moore, Global Market Manager. In addition to enhancing PLA's high performance attributes, Biomax[®] Strong at the recommended amounts

allows the material to still meet the compost ability requirements – a key feature of the environmentally friendly packaging.

“We are firmly committed to developing sustainable solutions, including solutions that improve the performance of other sustainable offerings in the market.” Moore said. “By improving the performance of bio-based and biodegradable products, DuPont™ Biomax® Strong can help the packaging and industrial products industries deliver high performance at a competitive price.”

Two grades of Biomax® Strong will be made commercially available. The first grade, Biomax® Strong 100, is available now and was developed for use in packaging where no regulatory food compliance is necessary. The second grade, Biomax® Strong 120, is expected to be available in three to six months and was developed to comply with food contact regulatory requirements.

About The Science of Fresh

Now more than ever, consumers expect safer, fresher tasting and more convenient foods – and food and beverage industry leaders are demanding ever-greater innovations in packaging technology that deliver on the promise of freshness. Through research and technological innovation, DuPont is constantly finding new ways to help make sure packaged foods stay fresh, pure and good tasting. From the strength, clarity and anti-leak performance of DuPont™ Surlyn®, to the high performance broad temperature range adhesion of DuPont™ Bynel® and the easy peeling, hermetic seals of DuPont™ Appeel®, DuPont offers a complete line of high-performance polymers and additives to meet a wide range of packaging needs. For more information about The Science of Fresh, please go to: <http://www.scienceoffresh.com>. For More information on Biomax®, please visit http://www2.dupont.com/Biomax/en_US/.

DuPont is a science company. Founded in 1802, DuPont puts science to work by creating sustainable solutions essential to a better, safer, healthier life for people everywhere. Operating in more than 70 countries, DuPont offers a wide range of innovative products and services for markets including agriculture, nutrition, electronics, communications, safety and protection, home and construction, transportation and apparel.

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