



Natur-Tec unit offers bio-based polymers

By Dan Hockensmith

May 29, 2008

PLASTICS NEWS STAFF

CIRCLE PINES, MINN. (May 29, 10:30 a.m. EDT) -- Circle Pines-based Northern Technologies International Corp. has launched Natur-Tec, a bioplastics business unit.

Natur-Tec has developed resins made of proprietary bio-based polymers and organic materials mixed with proprietary compatibilizers and polymer modifiers that are intended to replace conventional plastics, the company said in a May 27 news release.

The resins are engineered to be completely biodegradable in a composting environment within 180 days under the ASTM D6400 guidelines for compostable plastics, company officials said. Natur-Tec resins are certified biodegradable and compostable by the Biodegradable Plastics Institute of New York.

Applications for the new resins include flexible film, foam, rigid injection molded materials and engineered plastics for bags, can liners, packaging, cutlery and coated-paper products. According to Natur-Tec, since test marketing of the new resins began earlier this year, the company has seen more than \$300,000 in sales, reflecting a growing demand for bioplastics.

Northern Technologies International develops, markets and sells proprietary environmentally beneficial material science-based products and technical services.

Entire contents copyright 2008 by Crain Communications Inc. All rights reserved.