

Smithers Scientific Services, Inc.

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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SMITHERS ACQUIRES TESTING SERVICES OF NOVEON INC.’S AKRON BUSINESS UNIT

AKRON, Ohio (Oct. 17, 2001) – Smithers Scientific Services Inc. has acquired the rubber testing services operations of Noveon Inc.’s polymer additives business unit that is located in Akron, Ohio. Noveon, formerly BFGoodrich Performance Materials, is based in Cleveland. Terms of the acquisition were not disclosed.

“This acquisition will broaden our capabilities in both equipment and personnel,” said Smithers’ President and CEO Michael Hochschwender. “It is an opportunity to grow our business and add some great people to our staff, a real win-win situation.”

Noveon’s rubber testing services include compounding and mixing, sample curing and molding, processability testing, and mechanical/physical testing.

Rubber mixing and processing and physical mechanical testing equipment will be transferred from Noveon’s facility in Akron to Smithers’ analytical and physical testing laboratories. The consolidation should be completed in three to six months, Mr. Hochschwender noted.

Don Askea, business manager for Noveon’s rubber instruments and testing services, will be joining Smithers as technical director of polymer component and materials testing.

“Don is bringing with him an extensive technical background in polymer materials testing and we look forward to him joining our team,” said David L. Schwarz, vice president of Smithers Component and Materials Testing Division.

The rubber testing services operation of Noveon has served clients primarily in the tire, aerospace, and chemical industries. Noveon is actively exploring the divestiture of its rubber instruments business.

Smithers, a leading independent testing, research and consulting firm, has traditionally served designers and manufacturers of automotive, tire, elastomeric, plastic, steel, chemical, medical, and transportation products.

Noveon is a leading global producer and marketer of technologically advanced specialty chemicals for a broad range of consumer and industrial applications. The Company was formed as an independent entity on Feb. 28, 2001, when an investor group comprised of AEA Investors Inc., and affiliates of DLJ Merchant Banking Partners and DB Capital Partners Inc., acquired the Performance Materials business from The B.F.Goodrich Company. Noveon is headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio, with regional centers in Brussels, Belgium, and Hong Kong.

For more information about Smithers, log onto its Web site at www.smithersscientific.com.

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