

Smithers Scientific Services, Inc.
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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SMITHERS TAPS DON ASKEA FROM NOVEON RUBBER TESTING SERVICES

AKRON, Ohio (Dec. 13, 2001) – Donald W. Askea has joined Smithers Scientific Services Inc. as technical director of polymer products and materials testing, responsible for business development and the sales and marketing activities of the company’s Akron Laboratories.

He comes to Smithers as a result of the company’s recent acquisition of the rubber testing services operations of Noveon Inc.’s polymer additives business unit in Akron. Noveon is formerly BFGoodrich Performance Materials based in Cleveland.

Mr. Askea brings to Smithers more than 33 years’ experience mainly with BFGoodrich in research and development, experimental machine design engineering, polymer processing and physical testing management, instruments and control systems R&D, and rubber instruments and testing services management.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering Technology from the University of Akron and belongs to several professional organizations, including the Rubber Division of the American Chemical Society, the Akron Rubber Group, the Northeast Ohio Rubber Group, the Society of Plastics Engineers, Akron Section; and the American Society of Testing and Materials.

In addition, Mr. Askea has authored and published several technical papers on advanced material testing technology for the Rubber Division of the American Chemical Society and local rubber groups throughout the U.S.

The Akron native resides with his wife, Gerri, in Akron's Firestone Park, and they have two grown sons, Dan and Matt.

Smithers is a leading independent testing, research and consulting firm, serving an international client base, primarily in the tire, automotive, transportation, elastomeric, chemicals, plastics and medical goods industries. For more information about Smithers, log onto its Web site at www.smithersscientific.com.

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