

Smithers Scientific Services, Inc.  
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## **News Release**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **SMITHERS EXPANDS POLYMER ANALYSIS CAPABILITIES**

AKRON, Ohio (March 7, 2000) – Smithers Scientific Services Inc. has expanded its polymer analysis capabilities with the installation of an RPA 2000. The RPA (rubber process analyzer) is designed to provide high quality, precise and repeatable viscoelastic property data on raw polymers or elastomeric compounds before, during and after vulcanization.

“With the ability to control temperature, strain and frequency over a wide range, the RPA can simulate the conditions of all three key stages of rubber production, then characterize the rubber’s performance by measuring viscoelastic properties,” said J. Michael Hochschwender, president and chief executive officer of Smithers.

“Smithers is the only independent testing organization in North America that provides this kind of rubber process analysis,” said James V. Caslow, central regional sales manager for Alpha Technologies, system supplier to Akron, Ohio-based Smithers.

The RPA 2000 enables process tracking from raw polymer to final product. It measures uncured rubber process conditions, the cure reaction and cured rubber properties on a single test specimen in a rapid test.

“There is a large number of small-to-medium-sized rubber product manufacturers worldwide, who up until now, have not had the opportunity to evaluate the stock supplied to them from outside sources,” Mr.

Hochschwender pointed out. “We have the system in place to monitor the consistency and quality of rubber compounds on an on-going basis, eliminating a fair amount of traditional tests in the process.”

The RPA 2000 system permits much higher and faster discrimination between polymers and compounds than is possible by conventional methods, Mr. Caslow added. The analyzer has a unique temperature control system, a sealed and pressurized sample test cavity and a sensitive torque transducer.

Smithers is a leading independent testing, research and consulting firm, serving designers and manufacturers of rubber, tire, plastic, steel, chemical, medical, automotive and aerospace products worldwide.

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