Press Release

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Solvay's KetaSpire® PEEK Powders Coat Metal Tubes for Electrosurgery

Alpharetta, Ga., Feb. 12, 2020 --- Solvay's KetaSpire® PEEK powders have been chosen by Surgical Coatings, LLC to coat metal tubes used in electrosurgery. KetaSpire® polyetheretherketone (PEEK) powders were selected for their chemical and fatigue resistance while maintaining excellent mechanical properties and dimensional stability at high temperatures. These biocompatible materials also provide processing advantages and can withstand repeated cleaning and sterilization.

Surgical Coatings uses KetaSpire® KT-820FP and KetaSpire® KT-880FP fine powder (FP) PEEK grades to provide enhanced compatibility with electrostatic coatings in select electrosurgical applications. KetaSpire® KT-820FP is a low-flow grade that offers a superior surface finish, while KetaSpire® KT-880FP is a high-flow grade that easily fills and coats more complex geometries. Due to the high quality and consistency of the KetaSpire® PEEK powders, Surgical Coatings can achieve coating thicknesses as fine as a thousandth of an inch (0.00254 in. /0.064516 mm).

Increasingly, the coatings for electrosurgical applications need to withstand monopolar frequencies, high voltages and repeated cleaning and sterilization. During electrosurgery, electrical frequencies are used to make clean incisions, eliminating the need for surgical tools such as scalpels. To protect surgeons and patients from electrical currents, the metal tubes that are used can be powder coated with electrically insulating KetaSpire® PEEK materials.

"As the drive to develop new electrosurgical devices continues to accelerate, we need, more than ever, to deliver targeted, leading-edge solutions that best support our customers' needs," said James Morris, president and chief executive officer of Surgical Coatings. *"The KetaSpire® PEEK powders we selected for this application are a case in point: these advanced materials allow us to deliver new electrosurgical technologies that can meet tough requirements and give our customers precisely what they need to succeed."*

Solvay's KetaSpire® PEEK powders provide a uniform coating thickness to ensure consistent properties and mitigate risks. Compared to other commercial PEEK powders, Solvay's materials have lower moisture content for faster cycle times and greater throughput, and they can reduce energy consumption during drying. Additional advantages include reduced outgassing, tighter tolerances, and fewer surface defects.

Surgical Coatings wanted a supplier that would provide an exceptional level of service and help find the best possible solution from a portfolio of commercially available materials. Additional requirements included custom coloring capabilities to allow for improved aesthetics and the ability to precisely color match a company's logo for brand identification. To that end, Solvay's technical support team provided their extensive knowledge and expertise.

"*Solvay's KetaSpire® PEEK powders provided Surgical Coatings with the solution they needed to meet fast-growing demand in the medical marketplace for advanced electrically insulating materials,"* said Jeff Hrivnak, global business manager for Healthcare at Solvay Specialty Polymers global business unit. *"Our customer-driven solution helped make this application a success and it differentiates Solvay from other PEEK suppliers. We are also pleased to announce that this is the first of what we expect to be many new electrosurgical applications that utilize our KetaSpire® PEEK powders."*

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Surgical Coatings, LLC provides premium surface coating services to the medical device industry. Medical device coating is our only business and our employees understand that the products we coat are used on patients every day in mission-critical applications. We also understand your need to meet standards and requirements including ISO 13485, IEC 60601 and CGMPs. Some of our advanced coating application technologies include virtual masking, automated clean room coating, and defect free coatings. Learn More at www.surgicalcoatings.com.

Solvay is an advanced materials and specialty chemicals company, committed to developing chemistry that addresses key societal challenges. Solvay innovates and partners with customers worldwide in many diverse end markets. Its products are used in planes, cars, batteries, smart and medical devices, as well as in mineral and oil and gas extraction, enhancing efficiency and sustainability. Its lightweighting materials promote cleaner mobility, its formulations optimize the use of resources and its performance chemicals improve air and water quality. Solvay is headquartered in Brussels with around 24,500 employees in 61 countries. Net sales were €10.3 billion in 2018, with 90% from activities where Solvay ranks among the world's top 3 leaders, resulting in an EBITDA margin of 22%. Solvay SA (**SOLB.BE**) is listed on Euronext Brussels and Paris Bloomberg: **SOLB.BB** - Reuters: **SOLB.BR**), and in the United States its shares (**SOLVY**) are traded through a level-1 ADR program. *Financial figures take into account the planned divestment of Polyamides.*

Solvay Specialty Polymers manufactures over 1500 products across 35 brands of high-performance polymers – fluoropolymers, fluoroelastomers, fluorinated fluids, semi-aromatic polyamides, sulfone polymers, ultra-high performance aromatic polymers, and high-barrier polymers – for use in Aerospace, Alternative Energy, Automotive, Healthcare, Membranes, Oil & Gas, Packaging, Plumbing, Semiconductors, Wire & Cable, and other industries. Learn more at www.solvayspecialtypolymers.com

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Surgical Coatings, LLC is using Solvay's KetaSpire® polyetheretherketone (PEEK) powders for advanced electrosurgical tubes. KetaSpire® PEEK powders combine reliable electrical insulation for patient safety with the high-temperature and abrasion resistance needed for repeated instrument cleanings or sterilization. Photo courtesy of Solvay.