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### Plasticolors Wins NorTech Innovation Award Series

Ashtabula, Ohio – June 2004 – Plasticolors Inc. received a 2004 NorTech Innovation award for Accumag®, a chemical thickening agent for the thermoset composite industry that allows compounders greater control, predictability and consistency in producing sheet molding and bulk molding compounds. Plasticolors, a custom colorant and chemical dispersions manufacturer in the thermoset composite and coatings industries, developed Accumag in response to market demands for a superior thickening agent for polyester fiber re-enforced sheet molding and bulk molding compounds.

Accumag offers flexibility in adjusting the thickening rate for sheet molding and bulk molding compounds. Additionally, a new accelerated quality control test method is incorporated into the innovation producing a more accurate result than previous test methods. The new test method also takes significantly less time to execute.

"The product design of Accumag is truly innovative," says Kip Howard, Thermoset Process Development Specialist. "Accumag permits the formulator the freedom and flexibility of controlled thickening unsurpassed by other offerings. It is a unique solution to an industry issue."

The NorTech Innovation award is sponsored by NorTech. NorTech is a group of technology and business leaders in Northeast Ohio with a vision to enhance the prosperity of the region through science, technology, and innovation. Working together, these leaders, local and state government, and industry representatives have defined missions, policies, and targeted actions that promote new businesses and quality job growth in Northeast Ohio.

Plasticolors, Inc., a leading supplier of pigment and chemical dispersions to the paint, coatings, caulk, sealants and thermoset plastics industries, manufactures products for customers in the automotive, appliance, equipment, electrical, consumer and construction industries. The company's colorants can be found in a wide variety of products, including interior and exterior automotive components, epoxy flooring, electrical and appliance housings, and a myriad of paints, coatings and molded composite applications. The company is ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and ISO/TS-16949 certified.