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**GRUPPO MOSSI & GHISOLFI**

## **World's Largest PET Plant officially opened in Brazil**

The M&G Group today announces the official opening of the world's largest PET plant near Ipojuca, Pernambuco (Suape Port), North Eastern Brazil. The new plant has an operational capacity of 450kt/year (approximately 990 million lbs/year) and employs M&G's new proprietary Solid Stating (SSP) technology, EasyUP™.

M&G and owners, the Ghisolfi family, are honoured by the presence of Brazil's President, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, State Governor Eduardo Campos and other national and local officials at the inauguration ceremony. The new plant is part of a major commitment by M&G to expand the use of PET-based resins for enhanced packaging applications in Brazil and other countries in South America. Construction of the new plant involved over 2000 people and has taken approximately two years since its confirmation in December 2004.

Marco Ghisolfi, CEO of M&G's Polymers Business Unit, comments, "This is an exciting time for M&G and we are delighted that once again the largest PET plant in the world carries the M&G logo. After revolutionizing the scale of PET making in 2003, bringing on stream in Altamira (Mexico) the largest PET line in North America, M&G is proud to extend its scale leadership to South America. With Suape and Altamira M&G concentrates in only two PET lines a North and South American capacity of almost 900 kt/year – a production capability that on average the industry achieves in the two regions with the combined capacities of 10 PET lines."

“We are also delighted with the technical innovations at the heart of our new PET plant. The employment in Suape of M&G’s new proprietary EasyUP™ SSP technology, when combined with our innovative ActiTUF® barrier technology and our unique resin delivery system (BicoPET™), will bring enhanced barrier PET resins to the markets in Brazil, neighbouring countries and outside the region. These technology developments also demonstrate our tangible and continued commitment to growing capacity for M&G customers in our chosen markets. We believe our industry has still a very large untapped growth potential and we are sure that with technology at the core of our strategy, M&G will be at the forefront in developing new market opportunities for PET.”

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## Notes for editors:

Additional relevant information relating to the M&G Group:

- Ipojuca is a city of about 60 thousand inhabitants, located in the north east coast of Brazil about 60km from the Metropolitan Region of Recife. The city is considered to be one of the largest industrial centres of Pernambuco as it includes part of the Industrial and Port Complex of Suape. Economic activity is mainly based around tourism and the associated service industries though there is a lot of growth in new industries.
- The annual market for PET in Brazil is currently a half million tonnes whilst the overall region requires around one million tonnes. Current use is predominantly for bottle packaging for csd, water and edible oil.
- In Brazil, M&G Group already operates PET bottle resin, polyester fibre and PET recycling plants and PTA plant. The commissioning of the new plant, which has created around 200 new jobs and a further 700 in companies supporting the M&G plant, is not expected to alter the operations of these facilities.
- M&G is a family owned PET and chemical engineering company headquartered in Tortona, Italy. It is divided into three business units, PET Polymer, PET Packaging and Acetates. It operates the largest SSP unit in North America and has PET manufacturing capacity of 1.7 million tonnes located in Brazil, Italy, Mexico and USA. Group sales proceeds in 2005 were approximately \$2 billion of which around 80% were derived from operations involving PET. The Group owns R&D facilities in Italy and the USA.
- **EasyUP™** is a new generation of solid state polymerisation (SSP) reactors that are built horizontally (rather than vertically). M&G has a history of pioneering successful innovations in SSP technology dating back to the early 1980s. This revolutionary approach reduces construction costs, facilitates flexibility in production and improves the consistency of resin production.
- **ActiTUF®** is the “family” name for a range of enhanced gas barrier resins for use in a wide range of applications from small-sized csd, juices and beer. The resins are offered as “ready-to-use” (where each pellet contains the barrier properties appropriate to the application) and can be processed on standard PET injection and blow equipment.
- **BicoPET™** is the innovative technology from M&G where (and when appropriate) an active component can be inserted into the core of each and every PET pellet. This means the high barrier resins are offered to customers “ready-to-use”. No special investment, handling, mixing, melting or other actions are needed for converters to benefit from the new resins – they are used with basically the same operational procedures and conditions as standard PET. **BicoPET™ - It's all in the pellet!**