

BRASKEM HAS THE FIRST CERTIFIED GREEN POLYETHYLENE IN THE WORLD

*Company studies project for commercial production of plastic
made from ethanol starting in 2009*

Braskem, the leading company in the thermoplastic resins segment in Latin America and second largest Brazilian industrial company owned by the private sector, announces production of the first internationally certified polyethylene made from sugarcane ethanol, using competitive technologies developed at the company's Technology and Innovation Center. The certification was conducted by a leading international laboratory, Beta Analytic, which certified that the product contained 100% renewable raw materials. This international groundbreaking development by Braskem is aligned with its technological and innovation strategy and its commitment to fostering sustainable development, fulfilling the expectations of both Brazilian and international society for initiatives that contribute materially to reducing the greenhouse effect.

The green polymer developed by Braskem – a high-density polyethylene, one of the resins most widely used in flexible packagings – is the result of a research and development project that has already received some US\$ 5 million in investment. Part of this amount was allocated to implementing a pilot unit for the production of ethane, which is the basis for the production of polyethylene, from renewable feedstock at the Braskem Technology and Innovation Center, which is already producing sufficient quantities for commercial development of the product. The project's target customer will soon receive the green polyethylene and have the opportunity to confirm the performance of the product, which can meet all of the quality standards required to be competitive in the international market.

"The leadership of Braskem in the green polyethylene project confirms our commitment to innovation and sustainable development, and creates a very favorable outlook for the development of plastic products made from renewable raw materials, a field in which Brazil has natural competitive advantages", said Braskem CEO José Carlos Grubisich.

The project is now in technical and economic specification process and the startup of green polyethylene production on an industrial scale is expected in late 2009. The new unit will have modern technology and competitive scale, and could reach annual production capacity of up to 200,000 tonnes. The location and industrial design of the unit will be determined within the next few months.

The production of plastics from ethanol seeks to supply the main international markets that require products with superior performance and quality, in particular the automotive, food-packaging, cosmetics and personal-hygiene industries. Evaluations conducted in the initial phase of the project ascertained enormous potential for growth and appreciation in the green polymer market. Since both resins are equal in terms of properties and performance, the plastics manufacturing industry should benefit from this important development with no need to invest in new industrial equipment.

“Braskem is extremely proud to be at the forefront of a technological breakthrough that aligns the interests of the company, our shareholders, clients and consumers, and that above all else is a great source of pride among Brazilians”, concludes Grubisich.

Braskem, a world-class Brazilian petrochemical company, is the leader in thermoplastic resins in Latin America and is ranked among the three largest private industrial companies with Brazilian capital. With 14 industrial plants distributed throughout Brazil, the company produces over 6.0 million tons of thermoplastic resin and other petrochemical products annually.

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