



News Release

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IISRP to Honor Asahi Kasei Chemicals Scientist

HOUSTON, TEXAS, 1 November 2006—The International Institute of Synthetic Rubber



Producers (IISRP) will honor an Asahi Kasei Chemicals scientist at its next Annual General Meeting. Mr. Yuichi Kitagawa will receive the prestigious Technical Award. The award will be formally presented during the IISRP's 48th Annual General Meeting in New Delhi, India, on 16 April 2007.

“It is an honor for the IISRP to present this award to such an outstanding recipient”, said James L. McGraw, Managing Director & CEO. “This will indeed be a special event for both the IISRP and Asahi Kasei Chemicals as we bestow our highest technical achievement award to such a prominent researcher.”

Mr. Kitagawa joined Asahi Kasei Chemicals after his graduation and earned his Masters Degree at the Hokkaido University Graduate School. Since then he has devoted his career to the production, research and development of advanced synthetic elastomers.

His research has led to the development of advanced functionalized SBR for improved fuel economy with an excellent balance of reduced rolling resistance combined with wet skid resistance.



Mr. Kitagawa, along with his associates, has been awarded the Science and Technology Prize by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan. He has also received an award from the Society of Rubber Industry in Japan. He holds numerous patents primarily on solution polymerized elastomers. He sits on the International Standards Organization (ISO) TC45 as a chief expert of raw materials and provides a considerable contribution in standardization for the industry.

He has served on IISRP's Far Eastern Section Technical Committee and was its chair during 2003 – 2005. It was under his leadership that the IISRP conducted its survey to upgrade laboratory mill safety.

The IISRP is an international not-for-profit association with 40 corporate members domiciled in 20 countries who produce 90 percent of the world's supply of synthetic rubber. Incorporated in 1960 and headquartered in Houston, Texas, the Institute supports regional offices in Milan and Tokyo.