

News Release

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IISRP to Bestow Honor on Industry Leaders

Houston, TX USA 14 November 2008— The International Institute of Synthetic Rubber Producers, Inc. (IISRP) will honor two of its outstanding leaders at its next Annual General Meeting (AGM). Mr. A.J. (Art) Sullivan of ExxonMobil Chemical will be the recipient of the prestigious General Award and Dr. Gian Tommaso Viola of Polimeri Europa will receive the coveted Technical Award. The awards will be formally presented during the IISRP's 50th AGM in New York City the week of 11 May 2009.

“The presentation of these two awards will officially launch the 50th Anniversary of the IISRP and I will be extremely honored to present them to the two recipients,” said James L. McGraw, Managing Director & CEO of the IISRP.

Mr. Sullivan is being honored for his contribution to the industry **and** to the continuing success of the IISRP. He became an IISRP Director in 1997 and has served as the Americas Section President and member of the Finance, Pension and Audit Committee, the IISRP's primary oversight committee.

Mr. Sullivan has a B.S. degree in chemical engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology. He joined Exxon Research and Engineering Company in the Polymer laboratory in 1968 and in 1973 he transferred to Elastomer Sales in Exxon Chemical. Since then he has held a number of senior management positions including his current position, vice president of the Tire Industry Business Unit. He is also a Director of the Japan Butyl Company, Ltd.

Dr. Gian Tommaso Viola is a graduate of chemistry in 1974. Following his military service, he began his professional career in the Research Center of Montedison where he focused his research on fluorine chemistry, specifically on perfluoropolyethers and fluorinated elastomers. He joined Enichem Research Center in Ravenna in 1986 where he managed the Anionic Department until 1995.

He has conducted extensive research and development on solution polymers, specifically reaction kinetics. He also developed a new hydrogenation catalyst where the technology was replicated on the plant level. He has published many papers and holds more than 30 patents.

The IISRP is an international not-for-profit trade association with corporate members, domiciled in 21 countries, who produce 90 percent of the world's supply of synthetic rubber. Incorporated in 1960 and headquartered in Houston, Texas, the Institute supports section offices in Milan and Tokyo.