

The New Safe Latex, Vytex™ Natural Rubber Latex

To Debut at the International Latex Conference

Atanta-based Vystar Corporation will introduce its revolutionary new latex named Vytex™ to manufacturers of latex products at the International Latex Conference to be held in Charlotte, N.C., July 26-27. Described as "the new safe latex," Vytex natural rubber latex is produced through a proprietary process that deactivates antigenic proteins in latex making it safe for use by persons who are allergenic-protein sensitive.

A technical paper, *A Novel "Protein-Free" Natural Rubber Latex: Properties and Applications*, describing the research that created Vytex natural rubber latex and written by Vytex inventor, Vystar President and Chief Executive Officer Travis Honeycutt and Vystar Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer William Doyle, will be presented at the conference.

"We are very excited to be included in this prestigious conference," Honeycutt said. "We believe that the introduction of Vytex natural rubber latex will ultimately be recognized as

a pivotal event in the development of latex technologies."

Honeycutt went on to explain, "Our process gets protein levels down below ranges standard tests currently label as 'undetectable.' Importantly, Vytex natural rubber latex can replace traditional natural rubber latex in virtually any manufacturing environment," he said, adding, "all of these processes are employed prior to vulcanization of the natural latex rubber."

Doyle pointed out that the invention of Vytex natural rubber latex is particularly critical to the health care industry. "Recent focus groups validate the need for a natural rubber latex without the historic problem of allergenic proteins. Operating room nurses and surgeons have expressed dissatisfaction with synthetic substitutes and a desire for latex gloves that would be safe for patients and healthcare workers," Doyle said.

"The past two decades' accelerated use of protective gloves

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in the healthcare industry to protect against infectious diseases such as AIDS and SARS has escalated the problem. Today estimates put the number of healthcare workers affected by latex allergies as high as 17 percent," he said.

Noting that Vytex natural rubber latex has already garnered the interest of manufacturers across a broad range of product categories, Doyle said that plans to start Vytex natural rubber latex production are underway.

Vytex natural rubber latex is produced through a novel, patented method for the deactivation of the antigenic proteins (AP) in liquid natural rubber latex that involves the quasi-sequestration of these proteins. The Vytex scientific team has found that this method "denatures" the proteins by altering the stereochemistry of their structures, thus reducing the ability to generate an immune response.

Early results indicate that the deactivation method has no adverse effects on the physical and chemical properties of natural rubber latex as it is used in the manufacture of dipped products, and barrier properties may actually be slightly improved over untreated natural rubber latex. Studies are currently in progress to verify these claims.

Additional advantages of Vytex natural rubber latex are as follows:

- *Dipped product manufacturing techniques may be enhanced by greatly reducing the antigenic protein levels prior to production.*
- *Manufacturing costs may be reduced due to the need for less treatment — such as excessive washing and leaching — of latex products.*
- *Stability studies and pilot plant runs are in the early stages but show promise.*
- *Applications in the healthcare arena include the production of medical devices such as gloves, condoms, catheters, etc.*
- *End unit pricing of products manufactured with Vytex natural rubber latex will be in line with the alternatives currently in the market while providing the positive properties of natural rubber.*

Vytex natural rubber latex is a product of Vystar Corporation, a privately funded corporation located in the Atlanta metropolitan area community of Flowery Branch. The company's operations have been focused substantially on the early-stage research, development, testing and commercialization of the Vytex process. Vytex inventor, Honeycutt, has more than 30 years' business experience in new business and technical development in the industrial and healthcare markets. He is a founder, former director and former executive vice president of Isolyser Company Inc. (now Microtek Medical Holdings). He is also founder, chairman and chief executive officer of Reactive Energy, LLC, holds over 100 patents, and has received several awards for entrepreneurial growth and success.

After the conference, a copy of *A Novel "Protein-Free" Natural Rubber Latex: Properties and Applications* can be downloaded from www.rubbernews.com/conferences/2005/latex/. OR Today

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