

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**INDEPENDENT TPE BONDING STUDY RATES GLS THERMOPLASTIC
ELASTOMERS BEST IN CLASS**

*Adherence to Nylon 6, Plus Easy Processing Are a Winning Formula,
GLS Officials Say*

McHENRY, IL – In a recent international study conducted by Trimax Ltd. and Akron Rubber Development Lab (St. Louis, MO and Akron, OH) testing the bonding strength of 29 TPE grades from the world's leading TPE manufacturers onto Nylon 6 determined that GLS Corporation has the edge when bonding onto this substrate. The more popular grades of GLS Versaflex™ TPE alloys displayed superior bonding strength onto the Nylon 6 substrate than any other TPE compound tested. Fourteen leading TPE suppliers participated in this study. TPE types varied from SEBS grades to TPVs, TPUs and TPOs.

All GLS TPE grades will be highlighted at the February 5-7 MD&M show at booth #1969.

Trimax, the firm commissioned to do the study, states that “Multi-component injection molded combinations of rigid thermoplastics and soft thermoplastic elastomers are increasingly in demand in today's marketplace. The major driver for such increase is the ‘Soft Touch’ applications, where soft TPEs are molded over rigid substrates (for applications) from toothbrushes, kitchen appliances, portable tools, automotive interior to

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computer peripherals. This concept has grown rapidly and has extended beyond aesthetics to incorporate ergonomic design for ease of use.”

Noting that the adhesion between the soft TPEs and the rigid Nylon 6 substrate would affect the performance of the part, in at least one case results of the tests showed that the GLS Versaflex TPE alloy grade overmolded onto a BASF Ultramid B3K grade of Nylon 6 had an average tensile adhesion strength of 12.5 Pli (pounds per linear inch) compared to the next best product which had only an 8.0 Pli. Testing competitor’s products on other Nylon 6 substrates from other manufacturers produced similar results, with GLS coming out on top in all cases where a TPE was overmolded onto Nylon 6.

From a processing standpoint, the Versaflex TPE alloy grades judged as superior in the study also offer better processing features and benefits over competitive compounds. These include no need to preheat the substrate in order to make the GLS TPE “stick” – meaning that no second shot operation is required. Also, the GLS compound’s adhesion characteristics can be optimized (for a 100% cohesive bond) if the molder chooses to preheat the substrate.

Additionally in the study, “while most TPEs submitted for the study showed little adhesion to polyamides, only the GLS Versaflex product line yielded respectful results.”

GLS Corporation has supplied elastomeric raw materials to the industry since 1979. The company has produced application-specific, custom TPE compounds since 1984; in 2001, the firm formed a product development partnership with TPR manufacturer DSM. Products offered for molding and extrusion include KRATON™ thermoplastic rubber compounds, DYNAFLEX® thermoplastic elastomer compounds, VERSAFLEX™ TPE alloys, and

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new generation VERSALLOY® elastomer alloys, which exhibit enhanced performance properties. Applications are found in medical, sports and leisure, automotive, lawn and garden, appliance, kitchen tools, power tools, personal care and industrial markets, among others.

Further information on the full line of Versaflex TPE alloys, including those grades found to be superior overmolding onto Nylon 6 can be obtained by contacting GLS

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Information on the study – Thermoplastic/TPE Bonding Study, Evaluation of the Adhesion and Thermal Ability of Thermoplastic Elastomers to Selected Rigid Thermoplastics in the Injection Molding Process” – can be obtained from Trimax Limited, 125 Boathouse Drive, St. Louis, MO 63040. Tel: 636-458-0003.

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VERSALLOY is a DSM-GLS alliance product.