

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**GLS CORPORATION INTRODUCES NEW OVERMOLDING TPEs DESIGNED
TO BOND TO WIDE RANGE OF MODIFIED NYLON MATERIALS**

*Expands Realms of Design Engineers to Add New Look, New Feel to
High Performance Products*

McHENRY, IL (May 3, 2004) – It is well known that nylon is a difficult material to overmold with TPEs and achieve good adhesion. Not only are there many different types of nylons (6, 6/6, among others), but they are also often modified to enhance performance for a variety of reasons. All of these factors affect adhesion significantly. Over the past 5-7 years, advancements in TPE technology have expanded the use of soft ergonomic grips in markets that utilize nylon, including lawn and garden, hand tools and power tools. Some TPEs have been developed for these markets that bond relatively well to unmodified or glass-filled nylon materials, but they fall short when modified nylon plastics are used (heat stabilized and/or impact-modified).

GLS Corporation's new VERSAFLEX® OM 6100 Series of nylon overmolding TPEs was developed to provide a superior bond to most types of standard and modified nylons, including heat stabilized, lubricated, and impact-modified nylon products. According to company sources, these new additions to the popular product line position the VERSAFLEX® TPEs as the broadest and most innovative two-shot or insert overmolding materials available to processors today.

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The new grades, specifically OM 6160 and OM 6175, offer 60 and 75 Shore A hardness values, respectively, and are available in black and natural versions. Additional characteristics of the OM6100 Series are a soft touch/rubbery feel and grip, a dull matte finish appearance, a superior surface quality with no mold marks, and excellent colorability in natural grades.

Unlike some TPE nylon overmolds on the market which are much more suitable for multi-shot (eg, 2K or two-shot) overmolding only, the GLS VERSAFLEX® OM 6100 Series of TPEs provides much more process flexibility in that they are suitable for both insert and multi-shot injection molding processes. These products feature superior adhesion to standard and modified nylons, including glass-filled, impact-modified, lubricated, and heat stabilized grades.

The new VERSAFLEX® OM 6100 grades offer the processor many advantages. One of the most significant benefits is easy processability, with excellent flow, and a very wide processing window relative to other nylon overmolds on the market. Cycle times are much improved, including faster cooling cycles. Another significant advantage is that drying of the OM 6100 TPE is not required prior to overmolding. Pre-drying of the pre-molded nylon substrate is also not required prior to overmolding, as it is with many other nylon overmolds on the market.

These new nylon overmold grades are ideally suited for applications requiring a soft touch grip, a non-slip surface, an overmolded seal or gasket, or for vibration or noise reduction. As such, markets targeted are lawn and garden tools, hand and power tools, kitchenware, housewares, sports & leisure products, and some transportation applications. Design engineers now have much more flexibility in designing with nylon products due to the robust overmolding capabilities of the new VERSAFLEX® OM 6100 Series of TPEs from GLS.

GLS Corporation has supplied elastomeric raw materials to the industry since 1979. The company has produced application-specific, custom TPE compounds since 1984. In the year

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2001, the firm formed a strategic alliance with TPR manufacturer DSM. Later, in 2002, GLS entered into another alliance with GE Plastics to market a new line of Softfx™ hard engineering resin/soft TPE overmold combinations. And, in the fall of 2002, they developed a series of specialty rubberized TPU alloys to be sold under the VERSOLLAN™ trade name. Other GLS products offered for molding and extrusion include KRATON® thermoplastic rubber compounds; DYNAFLEX® thermoplastic elastomer compounds; VERSAFLEX® TPE alloys, and new generation VERSALLOY® elastomer alloys, which exhibit enhanced performance properties. Applications for these materials are found in medical, sports and leisure, automotive, lawn and garden, appliance, kitchen tool, power tool, personal care and industrial markets, among others.

For further information on the newly expanded line of Versaflex 6100 Series of TPEs for overmolding onto nylon, contact: Marketing Department, GLS Corporation, 833 Ridgeview Drive, McHenry, IL 60050-7050. Telephone: (815) 385-8500 or (800) 457-8777.

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VERSOLLAN is a trademark of GLS and contains high performance thermoplastic urethanes.

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