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Asahi Glass Fluoropolymers USA, headquartered in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, announces the establishment of a technical services laboratory to support its growing Aflas[®] fluoroelastomer business.

This facility will be located at Asahi Glass Fluoropolymers USA's facility in Downingtown, Pennsylvania, and is scheduled to be operational by the end of June 2003. The new laboratory will give the company the ability to do compound development and new applications testing. Asahi Glass already operates a similar laboratory in Chiba, Japan.

According to Asahi Glass Fluoropolymers USA Chairman, President and CEO Charles D. Allen: "This laboratory further enhances our worldwide technical support capabilities for Aflas[®] fluoroelastomers and underscores our commitment to growing the Aflas[®] business in North America."

Aflas[®] fluoroelastomer is well known for its outstanding resistance to high temperatures and harsh chemicals, especially alkaline materials. As the concentration of alkalis and amines found in automotive fluids increases, it is anticipated that Aflas[®] will become the material of choice for seals and gaskets in many areas of the automobile.

Asahi Glass Fluoropolymers USA is a wholly owned subsidiary of Asahi Glass Company, Japan, and is a leading manufacturer of fluoropolymer resins and compounds with manufacturing facilities located in the United States, Japan, and the United Kingdom. In addition to Aflas[®] fluoroelastomer, products include PTFE, ETFE, PFA, Melt Processable Compounds, PTFE Compounds, and PTFE Lubricants, all marketed under the Fluon[®] tradename. These materials have a wide range of applications in markets including automotive, aerospace, chemical process, resource recovery, electronics, architectural, and semiconductor.

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