

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



iSmithers lead new Conductive Polymers Project

SHROPSHIRE, UK (November 2009) – iSmithers, the information business within Smithers Rapra, have been awarded €300,000 to lead a new European project to develop training materials on conductive plastic materials for the benefit of plastics converters.

iPolyCond, a two-year project funded by the Transfer of Innovation strand of the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme will integrate the available state of the art scientific knowledge and experience of the consortium to develop, write and test industry-specific training materials and resources.

iPolyCond builds on the work undertaken by the European project PolyCond which successfully developed eco-friendly, cost effective and high added value conductive plastics composites which are radically innovative, knowledge based and sustainable for the protection against the effects of Electromagnetic Interference (EMI) and Electrostatic (ESD).

Conductive polymers are breakthrough materials which will allow the SME sector to expand their product range into new applications by offering materials with an expanded range of physical and electrical properties.

iPolyCond will be managed by iSmithers, working with a consortium of 10 partners from across Europe including the British Plastics Federation, AIMPLAS, TBA Electro Conductive Products Ltd., Betase and VTT.

For more information on the iPolyCond project, please contact Suzanne Wilkinson, tel: +44 (0)1939 252435 or email: swilkinson@rapra.net.

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Note to Editors:

This project is co-funded by the Transfer of Innovation strand of the European Lifelong Learning Programme. The Leonardo programme funds a number of opportunities for organisations involved in vocational education and training to develop new materials and manage European networks.

For more information visit www.leonardo.org.uk

Smithers Rapra has provided a world leading portfolio of rubber, plastic and other polymer information products and services for 90 years. To improve the delivery and range of products a new company was formed in July 2008 called **iSmithers**.

iSmithers as a sister company to **Smithers Rapra** and still part of the **Smithers Group** has expanded its service offering to cover other business areas and industries harnessing the expertise of the iSmithers management team and the knowledge from other companies within the group.

About The Smithers Group:

Headquartered in Akron, Ohio, The Smithers Group includes Smithers Scientific Services, Smithers Quality Assessments, Springborn Smithers Laboratories, Synomics Pharma Services, Smithers Rapra, and SP Formulations. These companies provide technology-based services to a diverse mix of market sectors, with expertise in well-defined niche areas. This strategy fosters stability and longevity, enabling Smithers companies to leverage their technical and brand equity to compete effectively on a global basis. For more information, visit www.smithers.com