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SPRINGFIELD AREA PLASTIC BLOW MOLDING COMPANY GROWS WITH SPECIALTY MACHINE AND REAL ESTATE ADDITIONS

Ludlow-based Meredith-Springfield Ready to Further Compete with National and International Companies in PET Plastic Blow Molding Industry

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOVEMBER 16, 2009 LUDLOW, MA – Meredith-Springfield, Inc., a plastic extrusion blow molding manufacturing and engineering company, recognizes an international trend in environmentally safe plastics. They have recently equipped their facility with two new molding machines and more space to deliver environmentally safe blow molded plastic products. Blow molding is the plastic conversion process used to make bottles, containers and other hollow articles from plastic resin pellets.

The national news has recently reported stories of water, food and health and beauty plastic containers that 'leach' potentially harmful chemicals into the contents. While chemical levels can be very low on an individual item basis, it is the consistency of multiple daily exposures of human consumption that is quickly changing the plastics industry.

Meredith-Springfield has been servicing national and international customers in the plastics industry, such as Clairol, Clorox, Johnson & Johnson, Kraft, PepsiCo and Reebok since 1983. They are continuing their global partnerships with companies that require improved barrier technology plastics while being environmental friendly. Step by step, more plastic bottles that contain liquids, food and health and beauty substances are being made with PET resin.

PET is polyethylene terephthalate and may exist both as an amorphous (transparent) and as a semi-crystalline material. A thermoplastic polymer resin of the polyester family, it is used in beverage, food and other liquid containers, thermoforming applications and engineering resins often in combination with glass fiber. Simply, it is the type of improved barrier technology plastic or non-leaching plastic that will not allow for carcinogenic or other contamination of liquids that are contained within. PET is what the plastic industry calls 'green' or 'soda bottle plastic' because it is widely recyclable by consumers.

The machines chosen are referred to as "one-step" Injection Stretch Blow Molding machines manufactured in Nagano, Japan by Aoki Technical Laboratories. This equipment is the most energy efficient available and because of Aoki's proprietary "Direct Heatcon" technology; very technical bottles can generally be produced at a lower cost and higher quality than those made with other blow molding processes.

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Containers for *Vermont Maid Maple Syrup* will occupy half of the production time on the new PET machines. Meredith-Springfield is the exclusive supplier for *Vermont Maid* and sugar free / low sugar brands by B & G Foods of Parsippany, NJ. The balance of the capacity is being filled with containers for health and beauty aids and food packaging for existing New England and New York based clients.

“One of the big drivers of this project was B & G Foods who made it their company directive to produce products under stricter environmental principals,” says Mel O’Leary, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer of Meredith-Springfield Associates, Inc. “The future is now and all trends in the plastics industry are going towards anything environmentally friendly or proven safe for human consumption; we are now solidly a part of that trend.”

The purchase of the entire 70,000 square foot building in which Meredith-Springfield resides and the order for the two new PET machines was a year long process that culminated with a one-stop-shopping experience with TD Bank of Springfield, MA, MassDevelopment and the Small Business Administration. TD Bank was both a lender and an agent to assist in underwriting a tax exempt Industrial Revenue Bond (IRB) and Small Business Administration (SBA) 504 financing.

“This \$1 million industrial development bond on behalf of Meredith-Springfield is exactly the type of investment we need and that we want to make in the Commonwealth,” said Robert L. Culver, MassDevelopment President and CEO. “The company’s commitment to new technology has put safe and environmentally-friendly products on the market, and we’re pleased to assist Meredith-Springfield in that process with this low-cost, tax-exempt financing.”

Meredith-Springfield offers extrusion and coextrusion (double or triple layer) blow molding and injection stretch blow molding. Technically challenging, short run or one time production run projects or those using exotic resins are very manageable and have been successfully completed for dozens of clients spanning the globe. Besides PET, resin capabilities include: HDPE, PP, PVC, PA, EPET, TPE, TPU, ABS, LDPE and Fluoropolymers. Meredith-Springfield is also a consistent referral for companies of all sizes who need test market quantities of custom blow molded prototype samples for research and development (R&D) and for “out-of-the box” concept development. Years of experience and attention to the global environmental changes has allowed the company to be on the cutting edge of creating highly technical articles out of engineering materials as well as with post-molding finishing, decorating and packaging capabilities.

About Meredith-Springfield

A plastic extrusion blow molding manufacturing and engineering company in Ludlow, Massachusetts, Meredith-Springfield has built a reputation for superior quality finished products and a hassle-free experience for companies across the globe. The company’s core competencies include project management of extrusion blow molded articles from concept through commercialization. The company creates process solutions to enable optimal manufacturing of the most difficult articles. Meredith-Springfield offers the latest technology for molding PET and other resins to the existing client base and can take advantage of other global opportunities. Clients include Chesebrough Ponds, Chevron Oil, Clairol, Clorox, Elizabeth Arden, Gillette, Johnson & Johnson, Kraft, PepsiCo, Reebok and Vermont Maid. These are just a few of the companies that in the past, or currently, enjoy partnerships with Meredith-Springfield. Serving the medical, packaging, industrial, HBA and food industries, national and international relationships are deepened every day as the company consistently demonstrates capabilities for world class product design and manufacturing. For more information, please visit www.meredithspringfield.com.

About MassDevelopment

MassDevelopment, the state's finance and development authority, works with businesses, financial institutions, and communities to stimulate economic growth across the Commonwealth. During FY2009, MassDevelopment financed or managed 229 projects statewide representing the investment of nearly \$1.2 billion in the Massachusetts economy. These projects are supporting the creation of 5,159 new housing units and 6,636 jobs: 3,295 permanent and 3,341 construction-related. For more information, please visit www.MassDevelopment.com.